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THE
HISTORY.

OF

AMINTOR and TERESA.

or Novel



L O N D O N:

Printed for W. OWEN in Fleet-street.

M.DCC.LXIX.





ADVERTISEMENT TO THE READER.

AMINTOR and Teresa having first been introduced in the History of Almira, published several years ago, it was imagined that the subsequent account of them might be agreeable to all such as favoured those two volumes by their kind encouragement.

The following sheets being compiled (as may be presumed by those who read them,) from the memory only of those several parties therein mentioned, the author hopes, that whatever trifling or capital omissions, &c. may be discovered by the keen judgment and discerning eye of the sagacious reader, may by his candor likewise be forgiven thro' the above-named consideration.

ADVERTISEMENT to the READER.

*Nor is it here pretended, that the identity
of words could always be preserved, con-
sidering the deep distress of those characters
who were the most concerned; but the great-
est care has been taken to be as accurate as
possible with regard to all essentials; and if
those have the good fortune to prove enter-
taining to the worthy reader, the author will
in that receive the worthiest satisfaction.*

By their deep story thinking youth shall find,
What dire events distress the lover's mind;
That vengeance shall at length the vile destroy,
And justice crown the virtuous brow with joy.

THE



THE
HISTORY
OF
AMINTOR and TERESA.

THE young and amiable Teresa lost her parents at an age so tender, that as her faint ideas were too weak to impress her memory with the pleasing image of them (as they both were every way the most deserving of such an influence) so she escaped the recollective pain she must have felt on being deprived of such a signal blessing.

B

But

But she was happy in a more than common gaiety of temper, and a greater equality of spirits than is often met with in our English ladies; which was supported not a little by the most perfect state of health, for many years, that could be wished for.

Her person was what might be called surpassing beauty, though that may be thought a kind of paradox; but she was the most agreeable! and so allowed to be, even by those whose dextrous tongues will very frequently dissect a famous finish'd beauty: her hair and eyes were dark, the last of which were sweetly brilliant: her complexion was more fresh and smooth than fair; but blooming with the most engaging blush of health: her face inclining more to a round than oval form, her nose was small, with teeth both white and even; and eye-brows very agreeable, though not so exactly regular as may be seen in faces bordering upon perfection. Her stature was middling, but finely shap'd; made more apparently attractive by the genteel and easy, yet graceful manner of her movement and behaviour:

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 3

behaviour: but the remarkable sweetness of her smile was such as in an instant prepossessed beholders in her favour, notwithstanding her mouth was not the smallest.

Her mother dying when she was six years old, her father went abroad to travel, in order to divert his mind from the sincere affliction which it suffered by her loss; and to endeavour the recovery of some effects, to which he was entitled by the death of a relation who had settled many years in Turkey; but he returned not: and in a few years they heard that there he died.

Her mother's father, with whom he had left her, brought her up, and educated her fit for the fortune he designed to give, or rather leave her at his death; for the greatest part of that which her own father had possessed was lost with him, and he received a very trifling one with her mother, whose father did not approve the match, as it was one more founded upon love than interest. Yet, finding that the life and happiness of an only child seemed to depend upon it, he

4 THE HISTORY OF

gave consent ; but in that kind of half-reluctant, grudging manner, as at the same time confers and wipes off obligation. And as she did not many years enjoy her promised bliss, being torn from one of the most tender husbands by that insatiable conqueror of all, Senex, Teresa's said grand-father, transferred what stock of love his nature had permitted him to be the master of to her engaging child, the young Teresa, whose father he had never thought of in a very cordial manner ; but whom he had still regarded less after his daughter's death : a remarkable instance of which will be occasionally mentioned in the continuation of this history.

Her father's mother, the good Christiana, was a lady possessed of a small jointure ; she was both naturally and reasonably fond of her grand-daughter, and requested to be a boarder in his family after her son left England, whom she till then had lived with, that she might still be near her loved Teresa ; the sight and company of whom was then the greatest comfort she possessed. And she took true delight

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 5

delight in educating her in the best manner she was able for several years, till Teresa was of an age such as they thought required further assistance. About which time it happened that she would have been rendered intirely incapable of such a task, by hearing from Senex, that she had lost her dear and only son, Teresa's father; for whom she mourned with the extremity of true maternal love: which fixed a lasting melancholy on her through her declining years.

Senex, at the intreaty of some relations and acquaintance, who thought Teresa led but a dull kind of a life at home, would sometimes spare her for a month or two to be with them; and there, as she grew up towards womanhood, a soft reciprocal regard was seen to grow apace between her and Amintor (as was just mentioned in the two volumes, intituled, *The History of Almira*): a youth endowed with fine natural accomplishments, both external and internal; nor less in fortune deserving of her, he being, like her, an only child, but heir to larger expectations.

B 3

His

6 THE HISTORY OF

His person was of stature tall and genteel, with the most graceful, yet easy air imaginable. His face an exact oval ; and his complexion very smooth, and fair enough, though not that snowy white which makes a man look but effeminate ; through which there broke a youthful bloom. His hair was of a chesnut brown ; his forehead high, with eye-brows thick, and finely arched. His eyes were a dark blue, and quite expressive of the goodness of his heart, from whence they gathered animation ; over which, as though to shade their lustre, grew the longest eye-lashes. His nose was finely shaped, as was his mouth ; nor could the brightest coral well exceed the colour of his lips ; through which appeared, whenever he spoke, the whitest and most even small set of teeth.

But nothing sure more amiable could be imagined than was his manner of behaviour, while his voice had all the sweetness of a manly softness ; nor did his form deceive, when it prepossessed all who beheld him, to believe he was the most deserving ;

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 7

serving ; for his mind was no less amiable. And though his natural parts and understanding were both strong and brilliant, yet he possessed a modesty that seemed rather to wish to screen than render his perfections obvious. Among which, sweetnes of temper and humanity of soul were most agreeably conspicuous ; nor did either pride or passion cloud his merit. And though he wanted a few months of being twenty-one years of age, yet the solidity of his disposition, his wisdom, and the progress he had made in the most liberal education, might have done honour to the highest rank, and one of twice his years.

Whilst they both were in a manner infants, their partiality for each other was approvingly smiled at by all their friends ; but most approved by those who did not live to see the issue of it, his admirable parents ! who both died within a day or two of each other, before Amin-
tor was of age ; and left him in the full possession of his estate, amounting to a thousand pounds a year ; judging it as safe under his management as it might

B 4 have

8 THE HISTORY OF

have been in case it had been intrusted to a guardian's: since they had proved, by a sufficient knowledge of him, the prudence and sufficiency of his capacity. And he lamented them in that just manner which best became so good a son on losing two such parents; nor did he for many months take any kind of pleasure, incapable to

“ Bear about the mockery of woe

“ To midnight dances and the public

“ shew.”

Even his much-beloved Teresa was long a stranger to the sight of him. But when his mind began a little to recover its natural fortitude, and he was told that she was near him, at her aunt Bellona's, sister to her grand-father, he wrote to her the following letter, and the first he had ever sent her.

“ My dear and amiable Teresa will
“ not wonder, that I have so long been
“ absent from the greatest and now only
“ happiness I know on earth, as you have
“ heard of my too dreadful loss; and
“ such

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 9

“ such a loss, alas ! as I can only feel
“ imperfectly ; for sickening reflection
“ grows insensible beneath the recol-
“ lection of it. Oh ! who can prize
“ enough a worthy parent ! and I have
“ lost the blessing of two such. But
“ you, my dear Teresa, knew them per-
“ fectly : forgive me, therefore, who am
“ no less acquainted with the excellen-
“ cies of your tender nature, yet thus
“ dare presume to wound it ; but what,
“ excepting this sad cause, could justify
“ me for so long an absence from my
“ terrestrial heaven ! In what a cruel-
“ fated hour I gained your kind per-
“ mission to request your grand-papa’s
“ consent, as the sole bliss then wanting
“ towards completing our intended
“ happy union. Oh ! why did you so
“ long, my sweet, but diffident distur-
“ ber, compel me to postpone it ! while
“ I had abler advocates than I have now,
“ who would have pleaded for me !

“ My father, who but a few days sur-
“ vived his dear-departed better self ;
“ for so he called and looked upon my
“ mother ! with a look of tender melan-
“ choly,

10 THE HISTORY OF

“ choly, attended by a painful sigh, told
“ me, he wished he could have seen us
“ settled ; for he had such unutterable
“ kind of dark foreboding, as before he
“ had never felt concerning us. And
“ he enjoined me in a promise, to be
“ either very expeditious in our mar-
“ riage, or very cautious ; but then,
“ alas ! could talk no longer to me :
“ nor till now could I endeavour to
“ obey him, though his beloved com-
“ mand, you know, led to my whole
“ felicity.

“ But on to-morrow I will hope, my
“ long-lost charmer, to revive this
“ drooping soul of mine, that now scarce
“ lives, with the most loved and lovely
“ prospect of thy soft and amiable viva-
“ city ; who must be ever,

“ Unalterably yours,

“ A MINTOR.”

And, on the following day at noon, he
went to make a visit to her at her aunt's,
in

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 11

in such a seeming cheerfulness of spirits as delighted all his servants ; for he was so mild and kind a master, that he suffered none of them to feel the yoke of servitude : and they had truly sympathized his sorrow for near five months.

He asked for Miss Teresa, as he often had done, whenever she was there ; and was answered by her aunt, that she was gone from her that morning, and never might, perhaps, be suffered to come there again : that some new kind of devil had of late certainly influenced her brother, and he had taken her from thence in a strange humour, made much more sower by Teresa's intreating, in a very earnest manner, that she might have permission to stay there a few days longer : that her joining with Teresa to intreat it had occasioned such high words, that she believed they should not meet again in haste ; for he had told his grand-daughter, in a great fury, he would for the future keep her more at home, that her affections might better know their proper place of residence.

This

This alarming and threatening sentence damped for some time the hopes of the surprised Amintor, and in an hour or two he took his leave, returning home the most dejected. There he remained irresolute what to determine, when he received the following letter from Teresa.

“ You will believe me, my Amintor,
“ when I tell you all your grief is mine ;
“ and mine, I know, will now be yours.
“ O ! my unhappy fortune ! thus to add
“ to, instead of lessening what you suffer !
“ You have heard, I make no doubt, of
“ what has happened concerning me,
“ which has opposed our meeting ; but
“ what more may happen, my fears can
“ easier suggest than I inform you. Yet
“ let our destiny be known, and if you
“ wish and mean again to see Teresa
“ (whose kindred, or some part of it, is
“ too unworthy I must own of boasting
“ an alliance with Amintor’s) let it be
“ very soon : it must, alas ! be here.
“ Yet here ! I tremble at the imagination
“ how improper ! Farewel. I am in-
“ capable of saying any more at present,
“ but

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 13

“ but that I am this moment summoned
“ to attend and entertain a visiter, less
“ worthy and less welcome than Amintor
“ ever was to the unfortunate, but not
“ faithles,

“ T E R E S A.”

It is much easier to imagine than describe the impression which this letter made upon the heart of our young lover. His hope to him seemed more than half expired ; and his fear, of course, gained a redoubled strength upon him. The oftener he perused her letter the more alarmed he grew, and the word visiter, although the dreaded meaning of it gave him the greatest pain, its poison furnished the best antidote ; for in an hour or two it roused his resolution to a sufficient fortitude, and he determined immediately to attempt the surmounting his oppression, rather than suffer poorly a timidity of spirit that might make him sink beneath it ; when not himself alone, but one still dearer to him, must, he knew, be likewise made its victim.

He therefore ordered his coach might be got ready ; and resolved that day, if possible, to see Teresa.

The distance from his house to that of Senex was not more than fifteen miles ; and it being situated near a small town, he there alighted at an inn to dine, not choosing till the afternoon to make the intended visit ; for it was the first he made her there ; nor had he more than twice been in the company of her grand-father, whose sentiments and conversation he but little liked ; finding but one conspicuous virtue or merit in him to approve of, his much avowed affection for Teresa.

Soon after he had dined, thinking it not too early then, he got to the abode of his dear mistress ; the mistress, for the greatest part of his young life, of his felicity (excepting that which naturally sprung from two such parents as he once was blessed by). They commenced a friendship in their very infant days, that ripened into unsuspecting love ; and such a love as never once had sickened by the hate-

hateful draught of either pique or jealousy, or met till now with opposition. But now, alas ! some friends were dead, and others moved to a great distance ; at whose abodes they used to see each other : and she was taken from her aunt to be confined with a cross grand-father, whom neither he nor any of his friends had ever liked.

Having asked for her, and hearing from a poor unexperienced modest kind of plough-foot-boy, that she was at home ; who scraped and stammered out the intelligence which room it was his mistress sat in, drawing back at the same time, and pointing to it. Amintor quickly reached it, stepping lightly over an unsounding cloth that spread the hall. The door, as softly opened with his hand, discovering his loved Teresa to him ; but it as suddenly discovered to his eyes and ears a sight and sound less pleasing. The before-named visiter was seated close by her, who sat at work ; his back turned towards the door, and he was then repeating out of a book he held in his hand, while

16 THE HISTORY OF
while he looked only languishingly on
Teresa, these lines of Cowley :

“ Ah ! lovely thief, what wouldest thou
“ do !

“ What ! rob me of my heav’n too !

“ Fore’en my prayers thou steal’st from
“ me,

“ Since I, with wild idolatry,

“ Begin to God and end ’em all to
“ thee !”

The confused astonishment this threw
Amintor into rendered him almost in-
capable of paying his respects to her, in a
due manner ; and all he had the power to
utter was (whilst he made a slow obedi-
ence to her) Your servant, madam ; I
hope I find you well.

Teresa, who had not observed him till
she heard his voice, started abruptly from
her seat, and courstying, in a kind of
pained yet pleased confusion, returned
his compliment, and hoped that he was
likewise so.

• Amintor

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 17

Amintor drew a chair ; and, placing it not far from her, when seated, told her, that he could not say, indeed, he was entirely so ; fixing his eyes, at the conclusion of his speech, upon the floor.

The visiter, whom we shall call Arbanes, on seeing Amintor (a person he was quite a stranger to) arose, and shoved his chair much further from the lady than it was before, after making him a formal bow ; and then sat silent, and surveyed him with an eye full of suspicious penetration : and indeed the eyes of every party were expressive for a considerable time, though all their tongues were idle.

But long they did not so remain ; for Senex, who had just that minute been roused unwillingly out of his after-dinner-nap, by the officious diligence of his foot-boy, came stumping in upon them, driving the parlour-door before him with one hand, whilst he was opening an eye with the other. When he had advanced some paces he stopped, and stared upon

C Amintor,

18 THE HISTORY OF
Amintor, as if enquiring for the recol-
lection of him.

The other arose politely, and walked towards him, accosting him very obsequiously with the usual compliments of ceremony, oftener warranted by custom than sincerity ; but the countenance of Senex looked too cloudy to be the least disposed to return it genteely ; and, withdrawing a step or two, he told him, that indeed he knew little or nothing of him ; but desired to be informed what was his business with him ?

Amintor then, somewhat surprised at his forgetfulness, let him know who he was ; that having some business of great consequence that way, he could not be so near, and not pay his respects to him and Miss Teresa, to whom he was no stranger.

The odd old gentleman replied, O ho, young squire ! my grand-daughter perhaps may thank you for your great civility ; but for my part, Sir, I must tell you

you plainly, I am neither fond of compliments nor company ; excepting now-and-then an intimate acquaintance of my own choosing : however, pray sit down and rest yourself, before you go ; for travelling's fatiguing. — No, no, I comprehend your meaning perfectly ; you come on a love-errand. I make no stranger of this gentleman, he is my worthy friend (looking at the same time upon Arbanes) I look upon Teresa, you must know, as my sole property ; and I assure you, that while she is so (which for ought I know may not be long) I shall permit her to keep company with none but those whom I approve of.

Amintor was so much astonished, and no less provoked, at this behaviour, that he was at a loss to find a proper answer ; while Teresa blushed and trembled, turned pale, looked down, then up again ; and each of them alternately looked on the other as in frightened wonder : she, as if attempting to reply in the behalf of both herself and lover ; whilst he, after looking round on all with dignified significance, thus replied to Senex :

That he perceived indeed, as well as heard him say, that gentleman must be his friend by the great unreservedness of his discourse before him ; a name and favour which, as he had no reason to make the least pretension to, no one could wonder, that he declined to take such unwished liberty of speech while in his company ; and likewise, as he had the greatest veneration for the lady, it was not possible for him to make a suitable reply to her relation ; but would find another opportunity, which might perhaps be more agreeable, to wait upon him ; for he could not, without a greater provocation still, relinquish so dear an intimacy, and a regard which had so many years subsisted between his family and Miss Teresa.

Ah, ah, I am no stranger to it, Sir, returned the other peevishly ; but that is nothing now to me, it is plain ; for I had quite forgot you, though I sometimes have seen you, I remember now ; and I suppose you had out-grown my memory.

That

That is no wonder, Sir, Teresa answered ; it is a long time since last you saw him ; and you observed but yesterday how much your eye-sight failed you, and your memory.

Arbanes glanced a sneering smile on Senex upon hearing this ; but cast a kind of cruel and malignant squint of jealousy on both the others : but the old gentleman threw words and looks, as if he meant to give them weight enough to break Teresa's head ; crying out, in a sort of mocking, snarling tone of voice, Yes, madam pert, it is true, I did say so ; but were they better he would not have made so lasting an impression, I suppose, upon them, as I perceive he has on yours ; then, turning towards Amintor, he thus proceeded :—Yes, Sir, I have heard from many friends of your designs before you came to me, and I believe them honourable ; and I likewise know you are a man of fortune, better than hers will be if she obliges me, yet I shall not approve of your addresses : for, since in this age we old folks must give a reason

C 3 for

for our actions to the young ones, be pleased to know, Sir, that I have had enough vexation for my life already, in one hair-brain'd love-match that I was fool enough to give consent to, in my own daughter, Teresa's mother; and I have thence resolved to act more wisely for the future.

Amintor was beginning to reply; but in that instant Arbanes started up, and addressing himself to Senex, told him, that as he was entering upon business of that nature, it was most agreeable to him to take his leave; and that to see a lady suffer in such cases, he thought, was worthy always to give a man some pain, though he was not the object who occasioned it; but Senex obliged him to resume his chair, by telling him their business was all over.

Amintor and Teresa, as with one voice, were making a reply to the old gentleman, having uttered both of them the prologue of their speech, "I am," when a gentleman came in, upon affairs of the first consideration with most people,

to

to pay some money, and prevented more being said by any of them on that subject ; and Amintor, just as his Teresa left the room, arose, and in an air of great dissatisfaction took silently his leave of Senex, shutting the parlour door with somewhat less respect than he had opened it. He then perceived his mistress crossing the hall ; he ran and eagerly embraced her for that stolen and precious moment ; whispering to her thus, “ Only tell me, my dear life, you will be mine, “ and I will yet be happy.”

She, in the tenderest determined manner, answered him as softly, “ If I have life to keep my vows, I will.” But now they heard some of their footsteps, whom they had just left, advancing towards the door that he had so abruptly shut, and were obliged too soon to part ; he to his coach, and she to her apartment. But she first discovered that their observer was the fly Arbanes, prompted perhaps by Senex.

Amintor’s mind was agitated now by several contending and tumultuous pas-

C 4 fions ;

sions ; love, grief, and jealousy, &c. Nor had resentment been the least amongst them, or most suppressed, if he had not really been, what he professed himself to be, a Christian. However, he resolved not to return to his own house till he had some more happy prospects, and had found some means to see again his sweet disturber. Back to the inn where he had dined he therefore went, and there that night he lay, but found no rest ; and when the morning came, he told his servants, that his return to them would be uncertain, but ordered they might want for nothing necessary in his absence.

There was a long and shady lane just by the house of Senex, which he had often heard Teresa talk of ; it led to a large orchard close to his house ; and there he went and walked, it being too early, he was certain, for him to hazard meeting with the old gentleman ; keeping only at that end of it which best commanded the door the servants used ; hoping to see ere long one of them open it, who probably might come within the sight or hearing of him : nor was his expectation fruitless ;

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 25

less ; for, in a short time after he got there, a servant-maid came out from thence towards him, who was proceeding upon an errand in the same lane.

Amintor lost no time before he spoke to her, and quickly found she was Teresa's maid, a neighbouring farmer's daughter, who was then, as usual, going to her father's for cream and butter for their breakfast. He, having sounded her, perceived, with no small hope and joy, that his design was on the way to prosper ; and the honest girl seemed as well pleased as he ; declaring, void of all artful reserve, that if his honour had not been so generous to her as he was, she would have given an hundred letters for him, only on account of her young lady, whom she loved, next to her father and mother, most of any thing ; and she had never seen her sigh and cry, she said, as she had done since yesterday in all the time she had lived with her ; nor had she found out the reason, but for overhearing some high words between her and her old master.

By

By this, and more that she repeated to him, he was sufficiently convinced, that he must not expect to gain Teresa with the approbation of her grand-father, who was so strongly prejudiced in favour of Arbanes ; nor could he think of any way to see her, but by the following means, she having been threatened with being confined and watched as she had never been.

The window of her dressing-room looked out upon the orchard before-mentioned, adjoining to the chamber where her grand-mother, good Christiana, and she lay ; he therefore went with his new confidant, whose name was Anna, to her father's cottage ; for he was the owner of the orchard at the end of which it stood ; and there he wrote the following note, and sent it to Teresa.

“ My

“ My dear and innocent disturber,
“ **T**HERE is, I think, no method
“ now of seeing you but one, by
“ what I have heard ; yet, if your love
“ is still-unshaken by these cruel storms,
“ O think, and find a better, and bless
“ me with the knowledge of it at your
“ closet window. I may be there at
“ half an hour after nine, your maid in-
“ forms me, with great safety. Fear no
“ discovery, as no other window looks,
“ I hear, that way ; and all your family,
“ I likewise hear, are before that hour
“ in their beds. Be punctual I conjure
“ you, my love and life, by all our for-
“ mer vows of everlasting truth ; for
“ moments will till then be hours to
“ your, &c.

AMINTOR.”

The prospect of this visionary kind of meeting seemed to restore almost lost life to poor Teresa, whose happy spirits had never failed her as they had on the late occasion.

Senex

Senex perceived her change of countenance, and called her several times that day good girl, for being more cheerful; giving her many a chuck under the chin, and once a kiss, by way of reward: attributing, no doubt, to his discourse and threats, the night before, this alteration in her.

While Arbanes, who all that day was there, and who lived at a small distance from them, seemed to exult within himself, as if quite satisfied with the sufficient influence of his perfections; the certainty of which he read, for so he intimated to Teresa, in her sparkling eyes: nor would his vanity allow him to believe, or seem to think, he could be rivalled long by that unledged poor stripling, as he called Amintor; whom now he found, she only had appeared to favour, he said, to torture him, that he might love her more, if possible, by feeling jealousy.

And now the evening approached the subtle and much-feared Arbanes was gone home;

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 29

home ; when Senex, who was never famous for good breeding, went up to Christiana's chamber ; she, being often very melancholy, spent her time mostly in her own room : he told her he was come to ask a favour of her ; for he thought he need not stand on any ceremony with Teresa, though she was a party likewise concerned ; which was, that she would exchange apartments with him, her's being, he thought, more large and airy, and his breath the night before had been more short than ever ; and he had been unaccountably often waked, nor could find out the reason of it, unless it was occasioned by the offensive smell of dung, which the wind brought him from the field facing his chamber.

As this lady was of a gentle disposition, and ever ready to oblige him in any reasonable request, she acquiesced obligingly ; and called a servant, who was then in the next room, immediately, whom she assisted in making their bed ready for him, by laying on his sheets, night-gown, cap, &c. &c.

This

This was no sooner done, and all things finished in the other room, than Teresa came up into her late apartment, she having been some time employed below in papering some sweet-meats, which her grand-father had desired her to make for him. But judge how great was her astonishment, to hear him, who was the only person she found there, wish her good night, and tell her to make haste to bed in her new lodging; but first to stay and see whether they had not left her night-cap with him.

This was a stroke, at once so unexpected and so terrifying, that her confusion would not suffer her to make much reply; but down again she softly went to tell her faithful Anna what had happened; who, having been employed with her, knew nothing of it, while the other servant was still attending on her grand-mamma. No method could be thought of by either of them to let Amintor know of this unfortunate affair; for the old gentleman took care of all the keys below when he went up each night, and carried

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 31

carried them to bed with him : nor was there any hope of reaching him till morning at Anna's father's ; for he had agreed with old Pastora (that was his name) to lodge with him a night or two ; for which, and for his board, he told him he would ask no questions about price, for he should more than satisfy his expectation.

Teresa therefore, with an aching heart, went to her chamber ; but to bed she scarce had power to go, till Christiana, whom she fancied was asleep, hearing her send forth a deep and dismal sigh, called to her, and intreated that she would come to rest, nor break her weak and ancient heart, by giving way so much to grief and sighing as she had done for some time past.

The other, ever fond and tender of her, obeyed in silence ; though trembling at the same time with dreadful apprehension concerning her Amintor : where, for the present, we will leave her, and observe the situation he was in.

At the appointed hour he came, and waited, though not with the greatest patience, for near another hour ; but seeing not, nor hearing his Teresa, he found means by the small light the moon afforded, to break off one of the longest branches he could find from an old apple-tree, with which he ventured three several times to rap gently against the window of the closet.

Senex, it so happened, was then sitting up in bed, unfortunately not disposed to sleep ; which was occasioned by the shortness of his breath at night, as before mentioned ; and heard it, though imperfectly : for he imagined there were thieves endeavouring to break in. Out therefore presently he stumbled, having on before his gown and flannel stockings, which he used to lie in ; and, without his shoes or slippers, came thumping with his fist at the poor trembling Teresa's door, but with more haste than noise ; crying in a quick, frightened, but low voice, Teresa ! get up this moment, and let me in ; make haste I charge you !

This

This waked the good old lady, who in a fright called out, Have mercy on us! what can be the matter, Sir !

The poor young lady guessed, alas, too well! and, weak through fear, could scarce obey him or reply; yet soon perceiving that his accents seemed not angry, she encouraged hope, threw on a gown and petticoat, and then unlocked the door; when he immediately said to her, Teresa, reach me down that blunderbuss directly; for we have rogues about the house.

It was here as natural to suppose that she still trembled more than she did before, as that it might not seem indeed at all unnatural to him that she should do so; and grasping both her hands together, in a painful attitude, she answered him by crying out as follows :

Oh! no, Sir! no! I must intreat you, for my sake, forbear! Indeed you are mistaken, I am certain; for yet I have not been asleep, and I heard nothing.

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He frowned, and stamped, calling her silly fool, and pushing by her ran himself to take it down; which she prevented him from doing for many minutes, by clinging round him, and using every argument she could invent, in order to dissuade him from attempting to make use of it; whilst he was furiously repeating the account of what he had heard, and threatening vengeance on them, by the help of those effectual balls with which the blunderbuss was loaded.

O Sir! replied Teresa, do not risque a life! a life so dear! Besides, you know, the piece has long been charged, and it may burst in going off; and if it must be so, indeed no one but me shall run the hazard of it; my hand is steadier, Sir, than yours, and therefore I can take the surest aim: pray, I beseech you, let me fire it for you, and I shall not be the least afraid indeed.

He struggled with her now, and grew quite angry, while she kept a tight hand upon the blunderbuss; and during this debate

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 35

bate her servant Anna came running down, who lying in the room just over that had heard it all, and hurried on her clothes in frighted haste to come to the assistance of her loved young mistress ; and Christiana, no less affected, was putting on her gown, &c. as fast as she was able in such a situation.

But all persuasions proved of no effect ; he called Teresa a mad silly girl, and carried off the dreadful instrument of death, in a victorious kind of triumph, to the aforesaid closet at the end of his new chamber. He was there some time prudently examining of it, as well as he was able by the dim light a lamp afforded, when Teresa, grown in a manner frantick by the terror of her apprehensions, ran to the closet window, and throwing up the sash heard her expecting lover call Teresa, in a low voice : then, quite regardless who it was that stood just at her shoulder, she screamed out, Oh ! fly, begone this moment from this fatal place, or you will lose your valuable life this instant ! and I never, never more, can see Amintor !

Poor Anna stood like one quite thunder-struck at hearing this, when Senex was so near them ; but she herself, as inadvertently imprudent, forgetting where she was, immediately laid hold of her young lady's shoulders, and gently pulling her cried, Madam, bless my heart, are you gone mad ! what have you done ! we shall be ruined !

Ruined ! Ah, gipsey, so you shall, I'll warrant you ! cried Senex in a frightened fury : I have found you out then, have I ! the worst assassins are within doors then, I find, in petticoats. Come hither, thou vile wretch, seizing Teresa, in a passion resembling madness, with one hand, while with the other he held dangling the before-named instrument of death, I have almost a mind to kill thee in the stead of thy accomplice, who has thus escaped me, but that it were a pity for the innocent to suffer for the guilty ; and it is my duty to take some care, I think, of my own life.

In the beginning of this speech the frightened Christiana and the maid ran to him, and disarmed him of his dangerous weapon ; and Teresa, now in tears, upon her knees intreated him to pardon her for keeping hitherto her thoughts so much a secret ; but that fear had only been the reason of it, as she had lately perceived so great an alteration in his way of thinking, which left her little hope of gaining his consent ; that she abhored deceit, and never would make use of any more to him, whatever might be the unhappy consequence ; but that having given, for several years before, her heart and vows to the deserving youth Amintor, whom he had smiled on formerly, she never could, while life permitted her to keep them, be another's.

This, we may suppose, heaped still more fuel on the fire of Senex, and it was with no small difficulty that he was prevented from laying a too heavy hand upon her. He scolded and called names, in language much too vulgar for the entertainment of a polite reader, and after

resting a few moments, to recover strength of lungs, told her, she should quit his house that very night ; and let her silly coxcomb, since he was there ready, take her penniless, if he must have her ; but bid her not expect a single shilling of his money while he could find a worthier creature living to possess it.

All their expostulations and intreaties were in vain ; good Christiana urged him to consider what he was about to do : what dangerous extremity a step so rash might plunge Teresa into ! adding, Oh ! Sir, can you ever, do you think, have any happiness on earth, if thus you prove the cause of your dear child's destruction, for one act of youthful indiscretion, not an act of guilt ! and would you force her then precipitately to the dependance on a young man's honour ! a dependance that, you must know, is ever to be doubted.

No, madam, replied he, she has forced herself, I think, upon it, or either you or I have lost the sense and hearing which we once had ; but you perhaps have been intrusted

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 39

intrusted with this night's fine secret—and if I knew you was—No, returned Christiana, Teresa knew me better, nor would pain me with the knowledge of it; but since I find you do not know me, Sir, as justly, if she must go, she shall not go alone, unguarded, nor yet friendless.

This but renewed his fury to Teresa; and he swore, that if she did not quickly leave his house, within an hour or two at farthest, he would without much ceremony push her out of it: and here he left them.

They, in great confusion, and all in tears for such unchristian treatment, dressed in haste and terror, and then packed up some of the most valuable and necessary of their clothes, with other things belonging to them; and taking Anna, who declared she would not stay when they were gone, if she was sure to lose her wages for it, left his house in a few hours.

He kindly put the key into the door below, while they were getting ready to depart, having first told them that he would see no more of them.

Amintor, who had heard most part of what has been related, as he, regardless of the threatened danger, stood underneath the window, had hastened round, and placed himself close as he could, unseen, to observe if they came out; and as he saw the door clap to, he ran and catched Teresa in his arms in a moment, while tears of manly gratitude and love bedewed her cheek, mingling reciprocally with more of hers; but fearing seemingly that if his accents should be over-heard, they might deprive him of so loved a prize, he only, in a kind of rapturous whisper, said, Make haste, my sweetest life, fear nothing; I will conduct you to a place of safety presently.

Nor did his apprehensiveness allow him for some minutes to retain that natural politeness he was generally master of; for he soon left the ancient lady many

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 41

many paces off, who leaned on Anna's arm, and was by her informed that they were going to her father's; for there was then but little light, though otherwise the morning was mild and pleasant: but, having quickly reached Pastora's, he made good Christiana ample satisfaction; and she was above pride, and such low resentment of a fault so natural, as he was circumstanced. He begged he might have her permission, from that hour, to look upon her as a restoration of a blessing he had lost in a loved mother, and she should find in him a child the most affectionate and grateful.

With this she acquiesced obligingly, though not without some tears, and wished him happy, as she thought, by all she had heard of him, he well deserved to be, but sighed out many just reflections on the cruel Senex.

He then expressed his heart's best sentiments of thanks to his Teresa for his present bliss; though he must own, he smilingly told her, he owed it more immediately to Senex than herself: for he
was

was certain she imagined not the cruel-kind effect that her sweet words produced.

And now Pastora, with his wife and daughter, made the best accommodation they were able for their unexpected guests, though much amazed we may believe; and kindly offered to lie upon the floor themselves to let the ladies have their humble beds to rest on, till then disused to sighs and broken slumbers; which after much persuasion they accepted, it being very early and they much disordered.

Amintor's rest was likewise small; for prudent caution joined with love to keep his eye-lids open, that he might catch the earliest information of the sun's arising, to fetch his carriage before it would be probable that any, whom he feared the observation of, should be abroad; for much he dreaded that Senex would relent, to make him wretched.

He accordingly arose, and leaving strict commands with the old man and woman,

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 43

woman, that they should not suffer their door to be opened upon any account till he returned, took a short leave of them, but very soon came back ; for every moment seemed to him an hour till he had conveyed his dear Teresa farther from the house of Senex.

Anna requested leave of her young lady that her father might be permitted to demand her box of clothes ; but she replied, it would not yet be proper so to do for a few days at least.

And in about half an hour after his return they sat out from Pastora's, proceeding with the greatest speed, and quickly reached Amintor's seat ; who had almost grudged the hasty minutes they employed in tasting of the breakfast that the diligent Russetta, Anna's mother, had got ready for them, and for which the generous young gentleman made her a present of five guineas when he took his leave of her.

But in that county he could not be satisfied long to continue then ; therefore that

that evening as he was walking in his garden, and in a lover's tender attitude had one arm surrounding her fine shape, he thus addressed the mistress of his wishes :

“ You cannot blame me now, my
“ dear Teresa, if I impatiently conjure
“ you, that I may not stop too long and
“ view the lovely prospect of that future
“ happiness which I must owe to your
“ sweet self alone : Oh no, my charmer,
“ let to-morrow forward my felicity in
“ carrying us to London, and may the
“ next dear morning make me yours ;
“ delays are often fatal, though some-
“ times beneficial.”

Teresa thus answered, after a pause of a few moments : “ I have, methinks, in this my present situation little merit in consenting, if long since you had not been sufficiently assured of my just sentiments concerning you ; but let my grand-mamma decide it, I see her yonder coming to us.”

Prudence

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 45

Prudence no less than choice obliged that lady to approve of it, and accordingly the following morning they sat out for London ; Amintor giving orders that Eustatio, a discreet old servant, who had been long a faithful kind of steward to his father, should attend them armed on horseback, with his footman likewise armed ; for he, though so far happy in the progress of his love, retained a dutiful remembrance of his good father's last words, and earnest apprehensiveness concerning him, as before-mentioned, which occasioned often a weight upon his spirits.

In a few hours they reached his house in town, the journey being not above twenty miles ; and there was one woman servant left always there to keep the house and furniture well aired.

But now as several trifling things were necessary to be got that day (as he persisted to request they might be one next morning) for him and his intended bride, &c. the hands and time of every party

4. were,

were, we may believe, employed ; whilst a strict secrecy was ordered to be kept of their approaching nuptials, which were to be solemnized upon the day which was, as Christiana recollects with a start of much surprize and pleasure, the anniversary of that on which her dear son Christiano was married to Teresa's mother, and it happened likewise, as theirs did, upon a Saturday.

Amintor having taken out a licence, and waited over night upon the minister belonging to his parish church, where they intended to be united, very early in the morning they proceeded in his coach, accompanied by none but Christiana and Eustatio, who was to give Teresa to Amintor.

The time they fixed on was too short for making up new garments for their wedding ; but he had a suit of silver-coloured grogram which he put on, and his Teresa was dressed in a lutestring night-gown then quite new, of a white ground, but clouded over with some streaks of a dark brown and purple.

The

The dawn of the sun's rising had that morning promised as serene and beautiful a day as the most superstitious person could have hoped for or expected in the latter end of autumn ; but all the brightness of the sky was overcast that instant after the holy ceremony ended, and the most surprising darkness, resembling an eclipse, succeeded, accompanied by a most dreadful storm of rain, with wind and thunder.

This much affected the weak spirits of good Christiana, nor did Teresa's, though much stronger, wholly disregard it ; but Amintor only smiled, whatever he might think concerning it, as conscious that it is the duty of the strong to endeavour the supporting of the weak.

They returned home at such an early hour, that observation in their polite neighbourhood was not awake to suffer curiosity to break its fast on them.

A general joy was faithfully confined to its allotted bounds, his happy family ; and

and such a joy as every individual proved so large a share in, that it left room for neither envy nor ingratitude ; for every servant had a handsome present from their master upon this occasion.

Eustatio was desired to dine and spend the day with them, the happy pair ! and the humane Amintor treated him as though he had been indeed a father to them : the justest picture of serene felicity might have been taken there that day ; for even Christiana, long disused to chearfulness, smiled and looked happy, repeating often her good wishes for their being truly so.

To which Amintor, when he tenderly returned her thanks, replied, but in a kind of inadvertent sigh, " I hope we shall
" be happy, madam :" then, embracing his Teresa, added to her ; " for thou art
" no less a lovely than a lawful prize,
" which I will always own I owe to Senex,
" though he meant thee for another ;
" and we have witnesses sufficient that he
" has notwithstanding given thee to me.
" Thus do we often see by the event of
" that

“ that which much afflicts us, our bitterest enemy is without meaning it our kindest friend, when friendship’s best-meant aid, through undesigning error, wounds sometimes that peace it labours to establish.”

He had the night before requested his Teresa (giving her at the same time a purse of guineas) to give such orders as she best understood to give, and should approve of, for the entertainment of that day; and it was elegantly sufficient, but without profusion: for she ever thought luxury and extravagance, on what account soever, still a sort of crime.

Their nuptial day being over, and the night approached, the kind old lady would oblige them by extending her time of going to rest, that she might wait upon the bride to her new lodging; where taking leave of her, she, with maternal love, wished that a lasting joy might bless their union: but for how long a time that wish was granted ere long will be discovered.

The following morning being risen, and these three happy kindred met at breakfast, Amintor told his amiable Teresa, that though her safety and his own felicity had been the first consideration, he could no longer postpone the due adorning of a form that wanted, he allowed, no such aditional embellishments; and as her mind, he said, would suffer none, she must oblige him in accepting of that trifle for the other; which he desired her to lay out immediately to her own taste, presenting her with a bank-note of considerable value.

She with a smile of sweet complacency received it, and told him she would obey him; that for his wife she owned it requisite, and had one way to make such generosity its due amends, by keeping it from the knowledge of the world, a seeming breach of gratitude; yet as there were so many gentlemen, who insist on being highly bribed to enter wedlock, it might occasion an open enmity against him, should he, a precedent so worthy,

be

be known to pay so dear for taking his
incumbrance.

Thus, amiably obliging and obliged, another day of bliss passed off; the following came, nor looked upon them with a face less gay than had the former: they had just arisen from breakfast, when Anna came running and out of breath into the parlour, having forgot her courtsey till she had reached the middle of the room, crying, in a frighted tone of voice, "O Sir! I beg your pardon—I
" am so out of breath, I scarce can speak:
" for there is yonder a strange kind of
" man, that says he must speak with
" you; he is very ugly! and I have
" heard such things of London, that if
" it had been night, instead of morning,
" I wculd a flapp'd the door, I am sure,
" against him."

Amintor laughed at her, and went directly to know his busines, and returning told Teresa, he was in truth a strange queer fellow; that he came to enquire whether a friend of his had yet been there; "One," continued Amintor,
E 2 " whom

“ whom I have had a very great regard
“ for several years, for we were school-
“ fellows ; you may remember my
“ having spoke of Courtney : I had
“ this letter from him lately, that gave
“ me the agreeable intelligence of his
“ intention to return to England soon
“ from a tour he had been making over
“ great part of Europe.”

He then felt for his pocket-book, where
he believed he had put the letter ; but not
finding it, said he supposed he must have
left it in the country ; but that she would
see him soon he hoped, for he had in-
tended to be there, he found, that day
by what the man had said.

Early in that afternoon a gentleman
enquired for Amintor, who brought the
following letter for him :

“ My dear friend,
“ An unexpected accident having
“ prevented my having the plea-
“ sure of waiting upon you, as I this
“ day intended to have done, I beg the
“ favour of seeing you directly.
“ I need

“ I need not tell you what I hope you
“ cannot doubt, that I impatiently ex-
“ pect to see you on your own account ;
“ but as likewise an affair of the first con-
“ sequence to me now stands in need of
“ your friendly assistance, I know you
“ will not fail to oblige me expeditioufly ;
“ pray come alone, excepting only that
“ faithful friend of mine who brings
“ you this : he will conduct you, as the
“ way you may not be acquainted with
“ so well as he is.

“ Excuse me, for I write in the great-
“ est haste; nor am a little happy to find
“ myself, after so long an absence, near
“ the reach of such a friend as my Amintor ; who am no less than ever

“ Your's,

“ C O U R T N E Y.”

He read it to himself, then gave it to his spouse ; telling her, that there she would see he was to fetch his friend before she must expect to have the sight of him.

E 3

Then

Then putting on his sword, and taking in his hand his hat, he told her she had surely made a very niggard of him ; for his love of her sweet converse had so much absorbed his friendship, that he reluctantly obeyed the summons of his much-esteemed good friend, when it deprived him an hour or two of her dear company.

She having read the letter gave it back to him, and said, You know your friend, my dear Amintor, best ; but you may think me foolish, if I ask you whether he is quarrelsome, or one disposed to fighting ; for there is something in his letter that awakes my fear, and seems to intimate that way.

Amintor laughed, and tenderly embracing her for her kind apprehensions and regard for him, told her to let that pretty heart of hers have rest on that account ; for Courtney's sentiments and disposition never would occasion any danger of that sort, whatever other youthful follies he might give way to ; and then,

then, observing to her that the gentleman waited in the next parlour for him, he took another parting kiss of her, and went directly.

Teresa looked, and, at the window, seeing him pass by, kissed her fair hand to him repeatedly till she had lost the sight of him ; and then throwing herself into a chair just by, an inadvertent and excessive shower of tears fell down her cheeks, when Christiana in that minute entered the room, and being much surprised, asked her the cause of it : Teresa answered, she had none, or none that she with reason could account for ; but wished, yet knew not why, Amintor had not gone that day from home ; adding, that she hoped she should not be, what she had often laughed at in another, a whimsical and vapourish woman.

No, my dear child, replied the other, you will only be, I dare believe, one of the most tender wives ; the weaknesses of love through conjugal affection must be excused, and such you never laugh'd at : but come, divert your thoughts from this

unprofitable entertainment, I intreat you; no tears, unless they are the tears of joy, become the first bright week of honey-moon; and you are just now wanted to inspect those silks Amintor ordered to be brought this morning for your approbation.

This, and some other business of the like nature, furnished an employment for the remainder of the day; but when the night advanced, and her loved lord was not returned, Teresa's ears were open to the smallest noise, to catch the first intelligence of his approaching: nor did her patience quite forsake her till the clock struck three; but that whole night dragging her hours along, without restoring to her the sight of him, the agitation or rather the distraction of her mind can better be imagined by the humane reader than related.

Good Christiana vainly tried to mitigate a little her grand-daughter's affliction, while she herself at the same time, alas! too much discovered, by the manner in which she aimed to comfort her, that

that she had very little left, if any, to support herself with.

That house of joy but yesterday was changed to one of sorrow; yet ignorant what source it sprung from, though fearful of some fatal one. No method was untried to hear of him that his old faithful steward Eustatio could think of; he likewise walked all day himself, enquiring over every corner of the town to no effect, and every night crept back into the house with a dejected countenance, and eyes glazily looking on the ground, as if afraid of meeting the torturing enquiries of his miserable mistress.

Thus many tedious wretched months passed on; and time, since it could not give Teresa the sense of joy, took so far pity on her woe, that it afforded her at last a callous kind of ease, by an insensibility that deadened over her reflective power; and though she was apparently not happy, she seemed at least less wretched: a happy circumstance, considering the condition she proved then to be in, for even agony of soul like hers denied her

her not one blessing, and in due time she found herself in a fair way to be a mother, though not a happy one.

But now an ill-timed incident proved a revival of her pain, and greatly hazarded her health or life.

One afternoon a gentleman enquiring for Amintor, and a woman-servant opening the door to him, who was excessive deaf, she thought the ladies only he enquired for; and answering, yes, Sir, please to walk this way, she ushered him into the room her mistress sat in. He bowed politely to Teresa, but not perceiving the person whom he looked for, sat down, expecting he was coming presently. She, seeing him a stranger, asked his name and business? He replied, my name is Courtney, madam; I have not the honour to be known to you, but my most worthy friend, your spouse, I am come to wait on; your servant told me he was at home.

Teresa recollected instantly the name of Courtney; started, and trembling with hope

hope and horror, cried, O Sir ! is your name Courtney ? What have you done with my Amintor ? Is he dead or living ? Tell me I intreat you. How could you take him from me for so long a time ? Indeed I cannot say it was like his friend : where is he ? pray, where is he ?

The gentleman stared with a face of reasonable wonder on Teresa, like one just thunder-struck ; and cried, Dear madam, you astonish me by your strange questions ! but I ask your pardon, and will take my leave. He then arose, and was in haste withdrawing himself, taking her for a person greatly disordered in her senses ; when she immediately screamed out, and called her servants, saying, O come ! this moment come, and seize him ! stop him ! the murderer of my Amintor ! some of you stop him !

The family came instantly all round her, and the men were laying furious hands upon him ; but Christiana, who just then was coming down stairs, desired, with great surprize, to be informed

what all this meant ? Courtney replied, with both a face and voice confessing an unguilty heart, Madam, I want myself to know, as much as you can, I assure you : this lady has been accusing me in the most strange and shocking manner : but pray inform me, I intreat you, of my dear friend Amintor ; is he living ? for I suppose this lady is or was his spouse, and it is some deep affliction has occasioned this disturbance of her mind.

Christiana observed him well, and then obliged the servants to withdraw and wait without, desiring him to sit down again, that she might better understand him.

Teresa, by her persuasion, being a little calmer, went to a desk, and taking out that letter brought to Amintor the day he went away, which he had left on the table, gave it to Courtney ; saying, There, Sir, that is your letter ; you cannot surely, if you are a gentleman, deny your name and own hand-writing.

He well perused it, and then, stamping with his foot, cried out, O, madam,

here

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 61

Here is some black villainy indeed I find ! and from my soul I pardon, and I pity you. This letter, I will give my oath upon it, was never mine ; but is the nicest counterfeit I ever met with.

He, having been informed of all, replied, I am, thanks to my happy fortune, able presently to ease your natural doubts concerning me, and wish it was as much within my power to give you further and more happy satisfaction ; for I can bring immediately, if you require it, many unexceptionable witnesses to prove I have not been in London till yesterday for several years, when I arrived from Plymouth ; and from that place, indeed, Amintor had a letter from me, not many days, I think, before the date of this ; for by a fit of illness I was prevented coming up before : its horrid meaning I am at a loss to guess at. Alas, my poor Amintor ! my most loved, most worthy friend ! this is indeed a shock quite unexpected. What man can reasonably hope for safety on this guilty earth, where merit, such as thine was, fell

a sacri-

62 THE HISTORY OF
a sacrifice ! for such I fear has been thy
fate.

He then arose, and walking to the window, wiped away a friendly tear or two that started to his eyes ; but presently attempted kindly to revive their hope, by telling them it was not yet impossible, he thought, though too improbable, that he might still be living.

He, before he went away, requested, for their satisfaction and his own, that they would send some person with him, whom they could best confide in, to bring them back such proof as he before had mentioned concerning him ; which accordingly Eustatio did. He likewise told them, that his stay in England was to be but short, and took a melancholy leave of them.

But this new shock, as was observed before, Teresa greatly suffered by, keeping her bed and chamber several weeks upon it.

Various

Various were the conjectures upon Amintor's unknown fate; and had not Courtney's spotless character, &c. so evidently proved his innocence, the odium must undoubtedly have fallen wholly upon him. Sometimes Terefa and Christiana thought, yet dreaded even to think, it might have been effected by the virulence of Senex, or, still more likely, they imagined, by the jealousy of the more subtle wretch Arbanes; but neither of these thoughts could they well reconcile with reason, as Amintor and his friends were strangers to them both; and therefore it was generally believed to have been perpetrated by some unknown ruffian, who knew the intimacy between him and Courtney.

The months passed melancholy on, till the much altered and most disconsolate of mothers was delivered of a daughter; but the faint joy accompanying her birth was clad in mourning.

Her dismal situation having reached her aunt in Herefordshire, though she was

was in a bad declining state of health, she came to see her, prevailing on her husband to come with her, that they might answer at the baptism for the half-orphan infant, along with the great grand-mamma, good Christiana ; and they named her Teresa Christiana.

But as there is a sort of tide in life, like that of rivers, running long each way, so poor Teresa's run of wretchedness was still continued and augmented greatly ; for in a short time after her recovery from her lying-in, the following news was brought her concerning Senex by her servant Anna, whom she had permitted for a few days to go and see her parents ; that while she staid, her father, offering to go for her to make a demand of some more clothes of hers than what he had got to send her soon after her departure, having been forbid his taking them away, happened to meet with the old gentleman in the hall ; who asked him what business he had there, and what he had within that bundle ? The poor old man replied, Nothing, indeed, an please your honour, but what I have a right

a right to take my daughter Anna's clothes ; your honour does not take me for a thief, I hope, or think I come to rob you.

Upon which Senex snapped forth the following answer, mending his pace into a stumbling trot while he repeated it : A right to take, Sir ; let me tell you, that is nothing, unless a halter for yourself and daughter, and likewise this, which was a well-intended kick ; but not in fact quite so well aimed and executed for the schemer's benefit, that meant to have helped the poor man down the steps ; but he miscarrying in this over-active trial of his strength, in a moment's time found, when it was too late, that he had only over-reached himself by wrongfully attempting to over-reach another ; for, not perceiving in his fury, that he had got to the brink of the stone-steps, down in an instant side-long he rolled over all the six of them, which his head heavily and too severely chastised as he passed by : but the surprised Pastora, being more nimble and less moved by passion, had wisdom as his friend so far, that he evad-

F ed

66 THE HISTORY OF
ed all the danger of a storm he had seen
and heard was gathering.

There Senex lay, nor could get up again ; Pastora called the servants to assist him, but stood aloof himself till well convinced the other could not hurt him : and he was then desired by the domesticks to make what haste he could and fetch a surgeon ; in doing this he made it in his way to leave his bundle first with Anna, and told her hastily she might then, if she had any inclination that way, without any danger, see her old master ; for he was quiete, he dared to say, than she or any body before had ever seen him ; adding, I'll fetch the doctor to him, but I believe he will not have, even now, good manners enough to stay for us ; he would be hasty ; and he has now, I'll warrant him, done for himself.

Anna made all the haste she could till got within sight of Senex, whom they would not move within doors till the surgeon bid them ; but then, as she declared, she ran some paces backward, nor could venture on till she found out that he

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 67

he lay motionless and quiet upon the pavement where he fell.

The surgeon, who shortly after came, opened a vein for him ; but declared he thought him a dead man : he ordered them to take him in, and lay him in his bed. This was no sooner done, than he looked up and groaned ; but seemed to mind no one of those who stood round about him : he murmured often inwardly as to himself, but much of what he said they could not understand, tho' the last part of it Anna distinctly heard ; which she remembered to be this :

“ Oh, I am met with ! my fate is not
“ unjust ! Oh, mercy, mercy ! Oh, for-
“ give me, unhappy Christiana ! forgive
“ me, poor Teresa ! and thou, wronged
“ innocent—good—” But there he
ceased, or she could hear no more, and
he expired in a few moments after.

His servants having, some time before his death, had orders from him, that whenever he should die Arbanes should be sent for instantly, they accordingly

F 2 fulfilled

fulfilled those orders ; and he came a few hours after, being not at home before, and gave them what commands he judged convenient relating to his funeral ; the particulars of which he had often been instructed in by Senex, who had requested that Arbanes only, with his servants, might follow him to his interment. This Arbanes told them, and ordered them immediately to bespeak their mourning, which by their master's order was to be given them. He then locked up whatever he thought proper, taking the keys away with him that night.

The following day he came again, and took an inventory of every thing about the house ; that likewise he locked up, and went away just before Anna called upon the servants to take her farewell of them before she came to London.

This news, which Anna brought, was a fresh shock to her poor lady ; for notwithstanding Senex, in his life-time, had never been the kindest grand-father, his death so influenced her tender nature, strengthened

strengthened by Christian duty, as to forget almost, and quite forgive his faults.

Oh, madam, cried she to Christiana (who was endeavouring to persuade her not to be so much affected with grief on this account) I had been less unhappy had he died a natural death ; for he might then, perhaps, have been more happy too ; he likewise then might have forgiven and seen me, and I might have had his dying blessing for my other blessings lost. Oh, how have I been punished in that love which made me first offend ! I feel myself now more than ever guilty : yet am not half a penitent ; for I lament my sufferings, alas ! more than my crime, when I reflect that it was the love of my Amintor that occasioned it.

This she accompanied with many tears ; but her good grand-mamma soon found the surest method to revive her, by putting her in mind, that it was a fault to suffer thus her duty to the dead to banish duty from a living innocent, who now demanded all her care ; and fetch-

ing in her infant-daughter, who was with its nurse in the next room, she put her on Teresa's knee, and said, Go, my sweet child, and let thy dear mamma wipe dry her tears upon thy pretty face ; and when thou smilest upon her, if she weeps again, I'll say she does not love thee ; adding, No, my dear Teresa, I fear you have already paid your grand-father more than you'll find you owed him.

She had just finished saying this, when word was brought them, that a servant on horseback just then had brought a letter for Teresa ; it contained as follows :

“ Madam,
“ I AM concerned to acquaint you of
“ any thing that may occasion you
“ some pain ; but think it proper not
“withstanding for you to know, that
“ your grand-papa is gone ; it was sud-
“ denly or you should have heard
“ from me before. I have, according
“ to his orders, given the necessary di-
“ rections for his interment. How he
“ has settled his effects I know not, nor
 shall

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 71

“ shall examine into that till you come
“ down ; which I hope will be as soon
“ as is convenient to you after receiving
“ this from, madam,

“ Your most obedient

“ humble servant,

“ A R B A N E S.”

P. S. “ I found the method of con-
“ veyance to you by your servant
“ Anna’s father, who undesignedly,
“ poor man, has been the cause of
“ this misfortune.”

After they both had read this letter, Christiana advised Teresa to return this verbal answer by the servant, That they would both be there next day by noon ; but neither of them yet knew how to understand or relish this summons coming from Arbanes. Accordingly, however, they gave orders for the coach next morning to be ready very early ; but Teresa wished her going had not been necessary, for though she chose to see the last she

F 4 now

72 THE HISTORY OF
now could ever see of her unhappy grandfather, she much disliked the thought of seeing the disagreeable Arbanes any more.

But they set out next morning, and no sooner stopped at the house of the late Senex, than Arbanes stepped to the coach to hand them out of it, and would have led Teresa into the hall ; but she, not in the least disposed to accept of such civility, kept back to lead her grandmamma, though seemingly in need of more support herself ; so great was her confusion and disorder on the sight of him ! nor could she for some time return him any answer to whatever he said to her.

He soon informed them, that if they pleased to accompany him up stairs it was now high time to make an examination after the will : he therefore opened the cabinet where Senex used to keep his papers of most consequence ; but he opened every place without success, except the last that there remained to open, and in that he found it, in a box wherein was something else sealed likewise up.

He

He broke the seals of the will immediately, and begging them both to sit down, with great obsequiousness, soon read to this effect: that he was left sole heir to Senex, nor was even a ring bequeathed to them or any other person; except trifling legacies to his servants, and their mourning before-mentioned.

This, though they had in part prepared themselves to meet, as having more fear than hope, astonished and provoked them almost into an incapacity of keeping up the appearance of civility.

The good old lady started up more nimbly than she was used to do, assisted by the strength of her resentment, and taking her Teresa's hand said, Wilt thou cry for him again, my dear? Though now, I think, he has truly given thee a stronger reason for thy tears than he has ever given thee, to think thou wert related to one so little human; yet waste not, I intreat thee, any more upon him. Come, pray let us begone, we have heard, I think, enough; and if you now

desire

74 THE HISTORY OF
desire to see his remains, I will not, truly,
bear you company.

Teresa, who appeared affected greatly by what she had heard read, was going to reply; but was prevented by Arbanes, who threw down the will upon the table where he had placed the box wherein he found it, and then addressed her in the following words, or words to this effect, I wonder not, dear madam, at the emotion that, I perceive, this unexpected news has caused, nor am I less surprised indeed than you, and only wish I had the power to convince you that I was above soliciting my friend, your grand-father, to serve me thus at the expence of justice; but, alas! my heart is, madam, best acquainted with its own innocence, and what propensity it bears rather to benefit than injure you, whose feet I should be happy now to lay it at, could you accept of the incumbrance with it: but pardon me, I mean not, madam, to offend (seeing Teresa look displeased) and suffer me, however, to intreat you would at least accept of whatever you may choose among the many curiosities

curiosities I have often heard your grand-papa say he was master of, or I shall think myself no gainer by his kindness, I assure you; nor would desire a kingdom bought with your disapprobation.

Teresa told him, she desired to be excused choosing of any thing her grand-papa had given such proof he did not choose to give her, though he had dealt by her unkindly and unnatural.

But the old lady replied, with tender warmth, Indeed, my dear, I think you are too scrupulous; at least those jewels, which I, and many more than I, have heard him promise you, you ought to take; they are your right undoubtedly. Here Arbanes hastily interrupting her, returned, Madam, they are undoubtedly indeed! and I will instantly search for them.

He then began to rummage over all the drawers where such kind of treasure lay, but to no purpose; when Christiana reminding him that he had not examined the box that stood upon the table, he immediately

mediately inspected that, and opened a little packet sealed up in paper, which he there found: it contained a handsome pebble snuff-box set in gold, and a gold watch embossed in a peculiar manner; but finding there no diamonds, he laid them on that side of the table nearest to Teresa, and proceeded to look deeper in the box.

While he was so employed, she took the snuff-box up, and looking on it very earnestly some moments, said, with a sigh, to Christiana, this is so like the box I gave my dear Amintor, that, had I seen it any-where but here, I could, I think, have been quite positive it was the same.

The old lady then looked at it, and, with a melancholy smile, replied, I well remember it; it is very like it, truly; which serves to shew, that we should never be too positive, as many are on any light occasion.

Teresa then snatched up the watch in trembling eagerness, and with frightened features

features examined that, till her relaxing fingers, faithless to their trust, dropped it upon her lap, as she cried out, Oh, madam, madam, this I can swear was his !

Was whose, my dear ! cried Christiana ; what dost thou mean ? This watch was my Amintor's, replied the other ; for this sinallest seal I gave him, the motto and the fancy of it was my own, and the other bears his coat of arms : what can this mean ? it is horrible to think on't !

Arbanes here seemed very much surprised, and told them, that, considering every circumstance, it was unaccountable to him that they should be her spouse's : but have you, madam, continued he, perused that paper they were wrapped in ? there seems some writing on it. He was just making an effort very complaisantly to present it to her ; but Teresa prevented him, by snatching it herself, without the least regard to ceremony ; and, having read it to herself, fainted that instant back in her chair.

The

The good old lady cried out for help, with all the little trembling voice this fright had left her ; which proving insufficient, Arbanes went to call up Anna, whom they that day brought with them ; she flew to assist her lady, aided both by love and duty ; who no sooner was restored to speech than she, in feeble accents, spoke thus to Christiana, who repeatedly desired to be informed what had occasioned this ? Madam, I beg we may be gone from hence ; I would not choose to stay another minute here ; and I have reason never more to have a wish of seeing this most horrid spot again ! then to Arbanes she thus proceeded : It is necessary, Sir, that you peruse that paper too, since in its terrible and dark contents you'll find my title to these dreadful relicts of my dear Amintor ! and they are all I'll carry from this terrifying place ! but it were happy for me, could I leave behind the sad remembrance that I found them here !

He then read it, started, and turned pale ; and, as he read, looked up, and cried,

cried, Astonishing ! Then, in the greatest seeming perturbation, gave it to Teresa, with the said watch and snuff-box ; assuring her, in the most solemn words and manner, that if he could gain any further light in an affair that, he must own at present, wore too black an aspect, she might depend upon his utmost assiduity concerning it.

Teresa was too much disturbed in mind to make him much reply ; but, with Christiana and Anna, hastened to the coach, no less affected than if the ghost of Senex had appeared to her. His remains none of them saw ; for every one of them wished to forget him. Teresa, who had promised her maid that she should see her friends, went there to dinner (though it should be observed Arbanes pressed them to dine with him) she having provided a basket generously filled on purpose for them.

There they refreshed themselves some hours (but grief too much had taken place of appetite) and there they gave their horses rest : and now the good old lady,

lady, not much less in pain of mind than her Teresa at this new cause of great affliction, beseeched her grand-daughter to let her read that paper: she then gave it to her. It was directed to Teresa, and contained as follows: wrote in a hand that seemed apparently to be Amintor's.

“ Since my cruel fate denies me any
“ more the blessing of beholding my
“ dear Teresa, let the inclosed be given
“ to her, that, when she looks upon
“ them, she at least may think upon her
“ lost Amintor.”

Both were now so much afflicted, that they wanted power to give each other comfort; and though their sentiments concerning this were both alike, each feared to utter them, as they seemed such a horrible disgrace to human nature, derived from one so near to them as Senex was. They hastened soon to town again, with hearts much heavier than they went with, and remained for a considerable time incapable of either thinking or conversing upon any other subject, till taken off

off from that by one likewise distressful, though of a very different nature.

Eustatio, who has before been mentioned as the steward to Amintor, resided with his own family on a small farm belonging to the estate of his good master. He constantly used to come up at certain seasons of the year to London, and bring his lady whatever rents he had received: the time was now just past wherein he had been expected, when Teresa had this letter from him.

“ My good lady,
“ **A** L A S ! what can I say to you !
“ **A**nd yet what must you think of
“ me, if I am silent at a time when I ex-
“ pected, as usual, to pay my duty to
“ you ! but I have no power to see you,
“ and I have truly wept myself half blind
“ about it ; to think I must be forced to
“ heap more trouble, where there is too
“ much by far, I am sure, already : but you
“ must know it, my good lady, one day
“ or other, therefore I hope you will
“ not blame me ; for I could almost
“ lose my life for the service of you and

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“ my

“ my dear master’s worthy family. There
“ has been some devil (I think it can be
“ surely nothing else) about this county
“ lately ; it seems he calls himself a
“ lawyer, and he has some-how be-
“ witched, as it were, or frightened all
“ your tenants, so that not a man of
“ them will let me have another shilling ;
“ and they all give me for a reason, that
“ they shall be made to pay it all over
“ again, so they have been told. I told
“ them in return (you will, I hope, ex-
“ cuse me, madam, for indeed I could
“ not help it) that the devil might take
“ them all ; but I would soon see after
“ this, and make them. Accordingly,
“ I called upon our minister (whom I
“ always took to be a very knowing
“ gentleman in all such cases) but he
“ would give me but very little satis-
“ faction concerning it, which has dis-
“ turbed me more than all the rest ;
“ who am bound in duty to be always,
“ my good and worthy lady,

“ Your most faithful
“ and obedient servant
“ till death,

“ EUSTATIO.”

P. S. " As soon as I am able I will
" come to London, to learn what
" I can further do, and wait upon
" you for your commands."

This was a stroke, we may suppose, Teresa was but ill prepared to bear ; and now she found herself reduced intirely to a dependance on Christiana's narrow income, a small jointure, for the support of her and an unhappy infant ; who, being a daughter, had no title to the estate, which was entailed on the male heir ; yet was she ignorant concerning what relation of her husband had taken this step against her.

The worthy grand-mother said all she could to mitigate her trouble, and only grieved that she herself was mistress of so small a power to help her with.

We must, said she, my dear Teresa, now endeavour to forget our happier days, that we may frame our minds to suit and bear those great, but necessary

G 2 retrench-

84 THE HISTORY OF
retrenchments which we must be obliged
to make.

Teresa, tenderly embracing her (as the prompt tears gushed to the eyes of both) replied, O madam, it augments my sufferings, when I reflect that I have been the cause of your partaking in them!

She soon after dismissed all her attendants, excepting one maid-servant, who nursed her child; but Anna earnestly requested that she might not leave her lady till she was married (which was to be very soon, the coachman having courted her some months) which was complied with.

Her carriage she most willingly could part with, having long lost all relish for the using it; and in this much altered state of life, they learned in a due space of time to be contented, though not happy; for time had in a manner calloused over the sense of their afflictions into an incapacity of feeling them too sharply: and notwithstanding they had many

many difficulties to encounter, such as a scanty fortune seldom fails to meet with, yet they all seemed trifles to support after those weighty troubles they had before sustained.

During this time Arbanes often came to town, and tried to gain admission to Teresa ; but she avoided seeing him each time he came by one pretence or other, till he at length, plainly perceiving that it would be unlikely for him to address her easily that way, wrote by the post this letter to her.

“ Dear madam,

“ I K N O W I never was so happy
“ to be justly known by you, or I
“ might have had an honor that I con-
“ fess I am too unworthy of, yet
“ hoped for notwithstanding ; as my
“ first motive for desiring to see you
“ was, that busines of the greatest con-
“ sequence to your much wished-for
“ welfare demanded your private ear.
“ I therefore in a day or two again will

G 3

“ wait

“ wait on you, in expectation of that
“ pleasure, ever duly prized by,

“ Madam,

“ Your most obedient and

“ Devoted servant

“ A R B A N E S.”

This letter caused new wonder in Teresa ; but when she read it to Christiana, that lady told her, that by all means she judged it proper for her to see him ; which she perceived her grand-daughter greatly averse to. However, she consented to be advised by her, and he came the very next morning after his letter. The old lady being not up, he found Teresa alone, and at her needle-work. He, after all the usual compliments, made known his business, in words to this effect :

That it was but lately he had been told (quite accidentally indeed) the melancholy

lancholy story of her distressful circumstances ; and that he looked upon it as his duty now to restore that fortune into her hands, which Senex left to him, since it was no less impossible, than it would be unjust, for him to enjoy it, when he knew that she must have such great occasion for it.

Teresa hated ever an appearance of ingratitude, and therefore thanked him, though she believed, she said, it was in a very odd ungraceful manner ; giving him to understand, that she would never rest under so high an obligation to any man she then knew living.

He, after making many distant hints, and using a variety of complaisant expressions, told her, she had the power to lay the greatest of all obligations upon him, would she but think him and his fortune not unworthy of her.

This she appeared so much disgusted with, that he desisted for some moments, and then thus resumed his subject.

If, madam, there had been a doubt remaining concerning your being free to make a second choice, I should be inexcusable for what I have said; but it admits of none. Why therefore, madam, would you bury thus in obscurity perfections formed to shine, to bless, and to be blessed? Believe me, madam, the fate of you and your sweet infant, whom I saw in your maid's arms, justly concerns me, and the regard I have long felt for you is much enlarged by grief and pity.

Much more he said upon this subject before he took his leave (not worthy being remembered by Teresa) and begged permission again to wait upon her, only to prove to her the sincerity of his intentions; which should appear, he added, so clearly, that he must beg leave to say the world would think her a less tender mother than he believed they had hitherto imagined her to be, if she opposed her daughter's welfare, though he found she seemed regardless of her own; and that he hardly should have dared to address her in that manner, if he had not a proof too strong

strong (found very lately) that she could never expect again to see the former lord of her affections, her dear Amintor.

She earnestly, though trembling, requested him to inform her what new proof he had met with ; in return to which he took the following letter out of his pocket-book, and gave it to her to read ; it was directed to Senex, her late grand-father.

“ Sir,

“ IN compliance with the last request of
“ the unfortunate Amintor, I send
“ you the inclosed, that you may act
“ concerning them as you judge best ;
“ who am, as you have ever found me,

“ Faithfully yours,”

The paper where the name must have been wrote seemed to have been torn off, in order to conceal it ; nor had it any date.

This letter caused Teresa a new flood of tears, nor could she in her grief suppress

press discovering, though it was accompanied with the timidity of doubtful duty, her terrifying sentiments concerning Senex, as it appeared too plainly that he had been the instigator of her husband's death.

This he at first seemed startled at; but having thought some moments, cried, O madam, I must own, indeed, this bears a very shocking aspect! but what, alas! can now be done! it is too late: besides there is no certainty. I therefore would advise you, for the honour of your own family, either to stifle such a suggestion in your own breast, or to conceal it ever from the world: the circumstances, tho' very shrewd, may yet deceive you; for truly, I have never seen just reason to think him capable of such a crime, tho' he was always of an unforgiving temper; and that I have often tried in vain to bring him off from, I can assure you, madam. But no more of Senex, added he; the injustice he, in one respect, was guilty of, I have the happy power to atone for, if innocence and justice, with

Teresa,

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 91

Teresa, will permit me to be master of such blessings.

To all this Teresa would return no answer that he could gather any hope from ; on the contrary, she refused him the permission to visit her upon that subject : and he, on taking his leave of her, replied, that it was not in his power to promise that he could see her upon any other subject. But this he uttered with accents of determination awed by respect, yet seemingly struggling with deep despair and the ferocity of love : so that Teresa, who was never prejudiced in favour of him, seemed now even frightened by him, as she expressed herself to Christiana after he was gone ; telling her, that notwithstanding he avowed himself the warmest friend to her, she found within her mind so fixed and bitter an aversion for him, that, if he came again, she was determined to be denied to him.

In answer to this, Christiana told her, she thought it would be more prudent in her to decline that resolution, considering her unhappy situation, and her dear child's ;

child's; whom, she had told her, he had expressed himself so warmly on the behalf of: for that it more than doubled every threatening pain of body, her declining age so frequently was subject to be visited withal, to know that by her death her dear Teresa must, most probably, be plunged in difficulties such as she was but ill-formed to bear.

Nor was she, to that dreaded time of the old lady's dissolution, defended from them; for soon after this the worthy Christiana laboured under a dangerous and tedious fit of illness, that demanded all, and more indeed than her small income of about fourscore pounds a year could spare, which brought them to so low an ebb of fortune, that Teresa was at length so much reduced as to be but mistress of sufficient power to furnish one more fee for the physician who attended her grand-mamma; and there were several months to pass before the little fund of money they depended wholly on for the remainder of the year would become due.

This

This was a kind of situation she had never known ; but while she was contemplating what she could do, her worthy servant old Eustatio called and begged to see his lady. He soon perceived that she had been in tears ; and instantly, through sympathizing duty and humane compassion, could utter nothing till a hasty shower of his had washed his aged cheeks ; which having wiped away, he spoke to her much to this purpose :

That he should have paid his duty to her long before that time, but that he had hoped to bring those wretches (meaning her tenants) to their better senses, which he now indeed despaired of ever doing ; yet was not come quite empty-handed, for he hoped she had still one Christian for a tenant : one, madam, added he, who has for many years nourished a numerous family by the generous liberality of yours ; but he can hold the farm he has so many years enjoyed no longer on the former terms, nor upon any other than those which may enable him to do that justice and that duty he shall

shall for ever owe to you, and which I, madam, have the power in my hands of doing.

He then presented to her a bank note of one hundred pounds ; and, praying for her health and happiness most ardently, took leave of her immediately, but most respectfully, seeming much oppressed with grief and great confusion, as she was with much surprize, just going to ask him who this very kind and friendly person was : nor did she conceive, till he was gone, that it must be himself (for grief can render dull the quickest of conceptions) Aminton having continued to him the whole amount arising from a farm of fifty pounds a year, first given him by his good father as a reward for many years of faithful service.

This proved a very fortunate supply, and was more pleasingly welcome as it came so unexpectedly ; but so it is often, that the all-discerning Providence assists the worthy when the most distressed ; and by that power good Christiana was restored to health again ; but though she had

had then escaped the grave, the dangerous nature of her illness so much impressed her mind, that she seemed anxious more than ever that Teresa might be settled in some more certain and more happy method of support sufficient for her ; and she often wept over her pretty god-daughter, the young Teresa, when she reflected that she had not the power to do by her as she so ardently desired. This greatly prejudiced the old well-meaning lady to wish Teresa would not break the acquaintance off that was so strongly courted by Arbanes.

He had called again, and hearing Teresa was not at home, had left a packet for her ; which she, being with no small difficulty persuaded to break open, found contained his will : wherein he had settled on her, and on her daughter after her, her grand-father's estate, with one still larger of his own, amounting both together to above the value of twenty thousand pounds.

The sight of this, however, occasioned her no kind of joy, but rather, on the contrary,

contrary, some sorrow, as it proved a strong temptation in the eyes of Christiana in his favour, whose greatest trouble, as before has been observed, was the uncertain state of her Teresa and her loved infant.

Teresa, no less on her part ever willing to return so tender a regard, chose rather to suffer pain herself than give it to a friend like that good lady : she therefore soon consented to permit his visits, and to try if it was possible to keep the friend in him and yet avoid the lover.

Alas ! how strange a thought was this for one less sensible than our unhappy lady to encourage ! had not such various troubles and conflicting duties bedimm'd and overpowered the eye of judgment.

But here we shall, like a false friend, for some time leave Teresa in her distressful situation, to give the reader some account of the long doubtful fate of poor Amintor ; though how we were enabled so to do will not be yet a while discovered.

THE



THE
HISTORY
OF
AMINTOR and TERESA.

P A R T II.

A MINTOR, while he was imagining that the gentleman mentioned before was civilly conducting him to his friend Courtney, just then supposed to be arrived from sea, was by a wicked stratagem carried on board a vessel, just then setting sail to trade for slaves; whose master likewise was the owner of it, and proved the wretch who had deceived him thither.

H He

He was conducted into a cabin, expecting every moment to see his much-esteemed friend Courtney; instead of whom two ruffians silently approached him, and immediately disarmed him; after which they strongly fettered him, rifled every pocket, and then left him; but soon returned and offered food and liquor to him, which he could have no relish for, we may suppose.

The villain master, whom we shall here call Massanello, did not come near him for some days; nor had he any person to attempt expostulating with, or to be witness of that grief of mind which it would be needless to describe to the sagacious reader: but what must be the agitation of his soul, when, by the noise and motion of the ship, and vocal uproar heard amongst the men above, he found it was under sail, with an uncommon gale of wind! The night being so far advanced and dark that he could scarce distinguish any thing, he heard the cabin-door unlock, and the too-well remembered voice of Massanello accosting him to this effect:

That

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 99

That he supposed he did not like his present birth, but that he would shortly help him to a better ; for they had now got clear of all fresh water, and if fair winds kept blowing he should soon be able to convey him safely to his destined port.

Aminton now imagined, from this unaccountable harangue, that he had got into a madman's hands; yet ventured to demand of him, what all this meant; and why he had not yet seen Courtney?

The wretch then laughed, and told him, that by a strange event they had missed seeing one another for that voyage, he could assure him ; for that he was not bound to wait at Execution-dock for his arrival, nodding and winking very significantly ; then added, that he, meaning Amintor, had nothing for it now, but to be easy, if he could ; if not, he must the sooner find a way to make him so ; for since he had embarked he must e'en through with it, since there was danger then in putting back again, though

he was sick, he swore, already of his expedition, by reason (having been a seaman, man and boy, for above fifty years) he had never felt, what he supposed they called the heart-ache, till that day when he shipped him on board, and wished they had both been hanged before he had entered into such a d——d affair; but that however they would drink together, giving him a glass of wine.

Amintor drank it, and was attempting to beseech a further explanation of the aforesaid dark and wretched speech, when Massanello, seemingly disturbed in mind, after telling him that he would send him some rare beef, turned from him hastily and left the cabbin, locking the door again upon him.

We may suppose a person in Amintor's situation was not much disposed either to eat or sleep, yet, as it was his duty, he tasted of the former when it was set before him; and as there was a bed just by him, he threw himself across it, in the utmost agony of grief, despair, and horrible uncertainty: but, having so continued

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 101

tinued for about an hour, he found his mind enlightened greatly, and more easy, through the following contemplative reflection :

That he could recollect no action he had ever done to any one deserving of such treatment from another ; and that, notwithstanding strict justice is not often found in man, it never ought to be supposed ever to fail in the great Institutor of it.

He was soon roused from the tranquillity which this train of thought afforded him, by the most alarming scream that sounded near to where he lay. He could perceive it plainly to be a woman's voice; and love, alas ! being ever propagative of painful fear, he thought the sound was like his loved Teresa's. Up therefore in a moment he started from the bed, at first forgetful of his almost helpless situation from his hands being much confined by irons, and presently discerned a light that entered through the key-hole of a door. To this he had no sooner placed his eye than he beheld a young unhappy creature upon her knees, struggling and

H 3 crying

crying out for mercy, to the same wretch whose want of that and common humanity he had himself experienced. He saw that all her ablest intreaties, join'd by the utmost pity-moving prayers, would all prove ineffectual to prevent impending ruin, though he could not distinctly make out any thing he said to her, excepting only a few muttered oaths and curses. Her spirits, being almost exhausted, seemed just then going to leave her, like a faint lamb within the paws of a fierce lion, when, in the very moment of her fate, the brave good heart of our young captive hero, forgetful or regardless of himself and his own danger, forced a way to her assistance, by bursting the door open in an instant, throwing his whole weight against it, aided by all the strength of christian and humane compassion and honest indignation, though no way armed but by such innate virtue.

At seeing this the villain started back, and seemed astonished, as Amintor came up boldly to him, calling him a villain with all the fury of a man at liberty; but in some moments, when the wretch's

fright

fright gave way for recollection, and he found Amintor had only his tongue at large, he swore in the most horrid manner that he would quickly be revenged of him ; for there could never be, he thought, a better hour to decide his fate in. He flew about just like a madman, seemingly in search of something that he could not find : but in an instant he was prevented looking any farther on that account by finding what he had not sought for — a poor, pale, trembling seaman, who from above came thundering down to tell him, that they were all undone for ever, and should be sunk or taken presently ; therefore he must come up directly. Having said this, he would not stay to utter any more, or wait an answer.

The wicked master, not less terrified (for guilt will start and tremble even at shadows) stumped trembling after him ; and in a moment all that could be heard above upon the deck was unintelligible noise and horrible confusion, mixed with repeated firing of guns.

The overjoyed young woman (finding herself so providentially released) poured out a grateful heart in blessings for Amintor, whom she called her good and guardian angel ; though it was with difficulty he could understand her through the aforesaid noise. Nor did she even seem apprehensive of their present danger in the least, so happy was she at the consideration of that just then escaped from ; but when she saw his hands were fettered, she clapped her own together, and lifted up her eyes in wonder at his amazing courage and humanity, and begged he would permit her to try if she could disengage him from them.

But just as he proceeded to return an answer, their ears were stunned into an incapacity of hearing any thing, except a noise resembling thunder. It was no sooner over than Massanello hastily approached Amintor, and falling on his knees before him begged him to pardon what had passed, for he was then for the first time convinced that there was more in virtue than a mere name ; and that

Provi-

Providence would, he believed, on his account, determine justly, to punish one of them to save the other ; adding, that if he had life so long allowed him he would confess all the particulars concerning him ; but time was now too precious, and he would sooner die than yield to the d——d Moors, who soon must board them, they being, he found, above his match. He then took off Amintor's fetters, and begged him to go up, and lend a hand ; for half his men were dead or wounded by the first broad-side, and he supposed the next would do for all the rest.

Amintor, though unskilled in an engagement of this nature, liked it still better than the last he was concerned in, as did the poor young woman, she afterwards declared, though death now threatened : but the affair was settled very soon ; for Massanello having twice fired, received a third broad-side, and that entirely disabled both him and his vessel : when he felt himself mortally wounded by a ball that entered near the heart, he sunk upon Amintor's arm, and in the most

most penitent and dreadful agony of death intreated of him christian forgiveness, and his prayers for heaven to likewise grant it him ; but finding life just going from him he embraced him eagerly, and cried, in the most bitter horror of a soul and body wounded, I die the death I merited ! O vile Arbanes ! this was all his doing, it was he seduced me with his cursed gold to undertake to be thy murderer ; but I have proved my own. O may you, good young man, continued he, live long and happy ! you have escaped from death to slavery ; but blessings will at length reward your sufferings.

He then expired, and in that instant their ship was boarded by the crew belonging to the other vessel, which contained only Moors. Their number was above twice as great as Massanello's, and they had hardly time to rifle it of every thing they found of any value, and take the few remaining people who were left alive on board as prisoners, before the breathless master, with his dead sailors and his ship, sunk down together.

Thus

Thus the unfortunate Amintor saw himself again in chains ; nor had he one conversable associate near him, but the young creature whom he had rescued from Maffanello, and whose name he found to be Servilia, and her age about eighteen ; for she now had leisure to inform him of that and all the following particulars relating to herself, as he did her concerning some part of his :

That having several months before had the misfortune of losing her mother, and the only friend indeed she ever knew, she was obliged to enter into servitude for her support. The tradesman with whom she lived had Maffanello for a lodger ; her place was very hard, and the more so to her as it was her first. This made her often very melancholy ; which he observing, seemed much to pity her, and told her she deserved a better place.

In a short time after this he asked her if she should like to go abroad ; for if she should it was then within his power to help her into a service of very great advantage,

advantage, as an English family of his acquaintance, who had been settled many years in Turkey, had sent to him an order to bring with him when he returned an English house-keeper ; and if she chose it, and thought herself capable of undertaking such a service, he would take her over, and likewise advance whatever money she might have occasion for to fit her out. She being poor and friendless, as has been observed, catched eagerly, she said, at this seemingly advantageous offer, and prepared accordingly. Though when she gave her master warning, he told her, if she would be advised by him, he thought it was better for her to stay where she was ; which truth, though she then disregarded, she afterwards acknowledged : for she had paid too dear, she owned, for want of a due share of christian patience.

Amintor, who had himself in this situation very little hope or comfort, still found some to spare for poor Servilia ; and the small recital which he gave her of his story greatly contributed to make her troubles

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 109
troubles lighter, though the poor girl wept heartily at hearing it.

The six poor wretches, who were the whole number saved out of their crew, excepting Amintor and Servilia, sat motionless, and generally silent ; they looked like foreigners who had been taken from some prison, and when they spoke it was in a broken unintelligible kind of language that was not understood but by themselves. They were all stowed together in a miserable manner, like so many cattle, but less carefully attended than many of them are, and were with wretched food just kept alive.

They, as a favour, were permitted twice or thrice to taste fresh air upon the deck during their stay on board, which was about a fortnight, as near as they could judge in their dark situation, when they were all taken on shore immediately, without the smallest intimation of it, and sold to different masters, whose aspects much resembled theirs who sold them.

Servilia

Servilia wept most bitterly on leaving her good friend Amintor, and sent her ardent blessings after him as long as he could hear them ; she was purchased first.

They, understanding no one's language near them, were ignorant of the place's name ; but by the appearance of it Amintor found it was belonging to Morocco ; for though he had never designed to see that nation, he had read the account and history of it.

It was his fortune to be bought by one, who, though an infidel, seemed much more promising of innate virtues than he had seen promised in the features of some Christians. He was a man of tolerable rank, and the chief business he employed Amintor in was to attend his garden. This proved most lucky for him, as he was always fond of gardening for his amusement, and had great knowledge in it, though rather more in theory indeed than practice.

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 111

This Hamet, his new master, quickly saw, and took so great a liking to him, that he made him act only as an overseer of the other gardeners ; and during a year and upwards used him so kindly, that Amintor might even have forgot he was a slave, had not the thoughts of his Teresa convinced him too often of it ; and her chains indeed hung heavy on his heart.

Hamet was more particularly fond of the English than of any other nation, and he had just purchased an English female, whom he was so much pleased with, that he treated her as kindly as if she had been his wife or rather daughter. He first grew fond of her, on finding she was well qualified to be a good interpreter between him and Amintor ; for she had been so many years in slavery that she had learned their language perfectly. Her name was Eleonora, and her story as follows ; which she gave Amintor at the request of Hamet, who told her, as they both were born, he found, in the same

112 THE HISTORY OF
same place, they might perhaps find out
some kindred in each other.

Eleanora was born in London, and
was the eldest of many children ; but
her father being unable to do much for
them, she had been sent, at the earnest
request of an uncle who lived in Spain,
to settle there with him.

But she was in her passage taken, and
had been then ten years in slavery with a
master who had parted with her to Hamet,
for refusing to accept, as he ex-
pected she would be proud to do, his
offered love ; which in his father's life-
time, her deceased master, he had never
mentioned to her : for the old Moor had
treated her and all his slaves with great
humanity.

Amintor, having thus far heard her re-
late her story could the best of any man
know how to pity her, told her he should
be glad to know her father's name, and
her own age ; for she must have been
very young, he should imagine, when
she became a slave.

To

To which she answered, that her age was twenty-seven years ; for she was just seventeen when she parted with her friends and father, who was named Eustatio, and was steward to a very worthy gentleman.

Amintor started at that name, and looked some moments earnestly on Eleanora ; then taking hold of her hand, and giving it a friendly shake, he spoke to her much to this purpose :

That if she could find any consolation from a comparison of deep misfortunes, he found it was in his power to give it her ; for she beheld in him her honest father's master, at that time a fellow-sufferer and slave with her.

Eleanora jumped from her seat with great precipitation, and drawing back some paces, as if through just respect, observed him with a look of mingled doubt and wonder, more like a statue than a woman ; and then cried out, Can it be possible ! are you then, Sir, he who was

I named

114 THE HISTORY OF
named Amintor! the only son to our
good master 'squire Fidelio?

This he assured her was the truth; and she, with lifted hands, replied, Then, Sir, indeed, I surely ought to be contented with a lot that has been given to you, whose noble family has for such a length of years been so kind to mine; nor would I now, believe me, accept of my own liberty if I might have it, were I to leave you here in want of it.

Amintor thanked her in words of kind acknowledgment and genteel gratitude; but Hamet, who had all this time attentively observed them both, asked Eleanora what all this meant? She having briefly told him, he congratulated both himself and them on the discovery, as if he had been himself no less concerned in it; bidding her look upon Amintor still as one of her masters, since he loved him like a son: adding, with looks and attitudes of joy, that now he would not part with him for twice the sum he had given for him; but he hoped no man would ever bid that money, as he

he should hardly know how to bring himself to let him leave him.

This last part of his discourse Eleonora would not then give Amintor the pain of hearing.

Hamet a few months after this had a much stronger reason for valuing Amin-tor, than he ever had before ; for the old man, going one evening into a large basin or pond that was just made in the middle of his garden, he had got deeper in it than his strength was able to encounter with, nor was he able then to swim ; and finding he must quickly sink, called for help as loudly as he could.

Amintor happened just at that time to go into the garden, though it was at an hour when all his men had left off work; but then it was he generally chose to indulge reflection, and try to cherish hope. He heard and knew the voice to be his master's, and making all the haste he could jumped in and catched him, just as he was sinking, at the risque of his own life, for he was ever a bad swimmer;

116 THE HISTORY OF
but virtue and humanity find often a protection for them, where it apparently is not to be expected.

The half-drowned Moor quickly recovered, and poured out gratitude in the same breath to Mahomet and to his young Christian preserver ; embracing Amintor for it in the most tender manner : and after that he made all his domesticks treat him with a respect equal to that they paid to himself.

He daily grew more fond of him, and made Eleanora instruct Amintor in the Moorish dialect, so far that he could talk with him, and they could understand each other tolerably well. In fact he treated him so tenderly, that it was impossible for one of that gentleman's grateful way of thinking not to esteem him greatly ; and he could have been happy, even in that state of bondage with Hamet, had not his dear Teresa's fetters hung too heavy on him to be shaken off.

Eleanora.

Eleanora frequently condoled with him their hopeless fortune ; yet blessed that happy chance which made them slaves to the same master, as she had it in her power, by many offices of care and kindness, to be of service to him ; and she prayed most ardently one day, that, as they shared together their confinement, they might at last be made partakers in their much wished enlargement.

Amintor assented to this prayer with a deep sigh, which hope soon reprimanded ; for Christianity encouraged him to hope, although without seeming foundation, as the great regard Hamet professed for him, notwithstanding it made his present situation much more easy than it would otherwise have been, yet it left little room for him to think he would let him leave him ; for he treated him more kindly every day, and loved him as a child or brother, and often used to say, No price should make him part with him.

One day he took Amintor with him a few miles from his house, in order to shew him, and have his opinion of, a small estate he was intending to make a purchase of.

The gentleman, who was then the owner of it was not at home, being gone a journey for a few days, as Hamet was informed by a young woman who came to them, as he desired to leave a message for her master, and she was the person intrusted with the management of his family affairs; but she seemed to understand but little of any thing the Moor said to her.

Amintor took her for an English woman, and drawing nearer to her, when Hamet called him to interpret what he had said, he thought he knew her face, but could not recollect where he had seen her: when she immediately relieved him from his uncertainty, by crying out, in joyful acclamation, O! my dear Sir, have you forgot Servilia! but I can never, never forget my kind preserver! Heaven

ven directed we should meet at first, for my deliverance ; but it is now for yours.

You are, I know, too good to rob my gratitude and justice of their right, and I am happy that I have power to make you free. How often have I wished again to find you, and heaven has in that and all been kind to me.

It has been my good fortune here to fall into the hands of the best master in the world ; but for some months after I was his servant, for he would never use me as his slave, I feared I should have lost him, he being in a very dangerous decline. It then was my chief business to attend him as a nurse by night and day, till I began to be so ill myself, that I was very fearful I should not go through it, though I had long been used to nursing whilst I lived with my dear mother ; but Providence was pleased so far to bless my best endeavours that I did, and he recovered ; so that he is now in as good a state of health as ever.

This service, which in me indeed was but my duty, he has most generously paid me for ; and, as I saved his life, he said he would endeavour to make mine happy for the future. He then settled on me this house, and a small estate belonging to it, and very fortunately, but a day or two ago, gave me two hundred pounds in money ; which he kindly told me was not all he meant to do for me before he leaves this country, which he, I fear, ere long intends to do. But here, continued she, I mean to end my days ; for in this place I have some other tender friends ; and in my native land, as I once told you, Sir, have none now living.

Amintor, quite transported and astonished at her generous gratitude, it being a virtue he had very seldom met with when in a Christian country, embraced her in a friendly manner, and expressed his thanks as well as his surprize would let him ; but Hamet, whose amazement was no less than theirs, and who had stood during all this more like an image than a man, as he was ignorant of its meaning,

meaning, not understanding English, here broke silence, and desired Amintor to inform him what it all meant, and why he had not an answer to his business ?

The other told him briefly, that they were old acquaintance, who were both agreeably surprised at meeting there : he then acquainted her with Hamet's business ; that he requested he might be the purchaser of that estate then to be sold, and that he begged her interest concerning it, there being another person desirous of having it.

This, when Servilia was informed of, she with joy replied, Yes ! tell him, Sir, if he will be my friend I will be one to him : let him this hour grant you your liberty, and I will pay your ransom before we part.

She then ran out of the room immediately, desiring they would wait till her return, nor would she suffer Amintor to reply in due acknowledgment. He took that opportunity of opening the affair to Hamet,

Hamet, who had no sooner been made acquainted with it than he burst into a flood of tears, and by his prophet swore he had rather part with every slave he was then master of than part with him: he beat his breast in the excess of grief most violently, that he was so unfortunate, he said, to bring him there.

Servilia then returned, and gave Amin-
tor a purse amounting to about the value
of fourscore pounds, which he received
in a becoming grateful manner, and de-
clared withal he took it only as a kind
loan, that should return with interest not
unworthy of so generous a friend.

She begged him to be silent on that
subject, replying there was nothing due
from him, since what she did was only
paying the debt of justice; adding, that
she requested he would lose no time in
any thought, but that of making both
himself and his beloved spouse happy;
and that there was a ship then lay not far
from thence, which was next day to sail
for London; that she was well acquainted
with the character of its master, and
would

would answer for his being well entertained on board during the voyage: she then informed him of his name, &c. which is not here material, and begged she might be permitted to be a happy witness of his freedom, looking towards Hamet.

Accordingly Amintor then made his request to him concerning what was his demand: he, after a long and contemplating silence, made them understand, through sighs and discontented accents, while he looked a-scant by turns towards Servilia, that he would take but thirty pounds, if he must leave him, though he had rather give to him a larger sum if he would still live with him.

This was directly paid him by Amintor, who returned the Moor his warmest thanks for having treated him so tenderly; and having taken the most agreeable farewell of good Servilia, who intreated that she might hear from him and be informed how to direct an answer, he now, for the last time, accompanied the friendly

124 THE HISTORY OF
friendly Hamet back to his house, in order, as he told him, to spend an hour or two in talk before they parted.

During their walk the happy freed-man told him, he should likewise pay the ransom of his poor country-woman Eleanora ; therefore he begged to know what he demanded for her.

This new stroke confounded him again into deep silence for some time, as he had a very great regard for her, and he could get at last no answer from him but the word "nothing," which was among the few English syllables he understood.

When they had reached the house, Hamet directly called Eleanora to him, and spoke to her in his own language much to the following purpose, as she informed Amintor : that she was now no more a slave, and that she owed her freedom to Amintor ; for he had paid in his own ransom all he would take for both himself and her ; yet he should ever be unhappy by remembering that he had been outdone in virtue by two Christians ;

ans; since, though Amintor saved his life, he had through selfishness too long refused him liberty, till shamed and forced into compliance by a Christian woman, whose gratitude and friendship had that day bought him his freedom, and enabled him to offer the payment of whatever he should ask for her's; but that he would have nothing more of him, and what he had already given he should regard as only for Eleanora's; though he declared himself the most unfortunate and wretched, at once to part with the two people whom he loved the most of all his slaves.

Eleanora, during this discourse, could scarce support her joy; and though it shone conspicuous through her eyes and features, seeing poor Hamet weep most violently, she could not help permitting it to be eclipsed, or vent itself in tears: and when she was enough recovered properly to recollect herself, she fell upon her knees to offer first to heaven her humblest thanks, and next to pray for blessings to attend her generous and dear young master, embracing both his knees with

126 THE HISTORY OF
with an enthusiasm of ecstasy and grati-
tude.

She then explained more fully to his comprehension than the Moor could what he had said to her ; but though Amintor duly acknowledged his kind regard concerning him, yet he insisted that he should accept of twenty pounds, if only as a present, in consideration of the obligation he was under for the particular regard he had shewn them both.

And now the blissful hour approached wherein they took their leave of slavery and Hamet, who might at least be called an honourable infidel : their parting might have furnished matter for the most natural and lively portrait of happiness and misery.

They went that night on board the vessel, conducted by their old unhappy master, whose last farewell was signified by sobbing ; where Amintor treated with the captain for their passage, and in the voyage made him acquainted with him and his unhappy story, as well as that of the

the now happy Eleanora ; and, as Serilia had informed him, he found they were to sail next day : and there at present we will leave them to pursue their voyage with all the joy attending hope and pleasing expectation, while we return to take a view of the distressed Teresa.

She after having, as was before related, received those papers from Arbanes, wherein he made her and her child heirs to the major part of his estate, was at length prevailed on, by the intreaty of the well-meaning Christiana, to permit his frequent visits ; though he could not in any of them extort from her, by all the tenderest and most friendly assiduities, the smallest declaration in favour of his wish, beyond what follows :

That the first moment she could find her dear Amintor's image had forsook her heart and her idea, there might perhaps be room for her to entertain a thought of one to whom she stood indebted for such weighty obligations ; but till then she would never think of any man farther than as a friend.

This

This uncertain happy moment he had waited for with an impatient expectation, but found he had but waited for in vain ; and being at length inflamed by his despairing passion into a kind of madness, he one evening, when the time drew near in which he generally took his leave of her, having that visit pressed more ardently than ever for a more satisfactory determination in his behalf, without success, started from his seat, and while his features discovered an emotion the most frantick and alarming, walked hastily a turn or two across the room, then stopped and thought a while ; then, looking upon Teresa in a kind of tender fury, he fell upon one knee before her, and snatched her hand, holding it fast between both his, while he told her, in the most reproachful accents, that he thought she had used him very cruelly, considering he had given her every proof within his power of his extravagant regard for her ; but that he now too plainly saw she had none for him, and only trifled with his misery ; and therefore he was determined to put an end to it for ever, one

way or t'other: that if she would not then appoint what hour he might be hers, he swore the present hour, by ending him, should put an end to all the pain he gave her.

In saying this he drew his dagger from his side, fixing the point against the ground while he received her answer.

The glittering horror of this sight, and the more horrible occasion of it, had at first almost deprived Teresa of the power to utter any thing ; but after a few moments recollection, that Power Omnipotent which never fails to fortify the just, enabled her to make the following answer, not to him indeed, but to that all-perceiving heaven, whereon her soul and eyes were seemingly both fixed :

O, my dear Amintor! my loved, my lost, but still my ever-dear Amintor! if thy angelic spirit, in its more blessed divine abode, can be permitted to behold a wretched mortal, look down on thy once-loved Teresa! See, O see, and pity what she now suffers, and what for thy

K dear

dear sake, perhaps, she still must suffer, and in this cruel, dreadful moment of conflicting horrors, O intercede with some good angel to actuate my soul and guide my tongue to answer as it ought ! or come, O come thyself, thou dear, dear shade, and take Teresa with thee, and let me be in death, as well as life, thine, only thine, Amintor !

Arbanes, who during the time Teresa had been speaking stood leaning on his dagger and looking down, just as she uttered the last word "Amintor" looked up, and cast an eye of fear mingled with jealous rage of disappointment on her, and in a hasty start shortened the dagger which only his right hand then rested on, apparently intending some act of violence and further horror, by the succeeding look and attitude of fury with which he viewed her ; but the parlour-door that instant opening, his attention was drawn off from himself, to gaze a moment, probably in order to discover who was entering ; when retreating back a step or two with frightened aspect, such as still more terrified Teresa, he fell quite motionless upon

on the floor. She started up to quit the room, with a precipitation such as a case like hers would naturally occasion ; but how enlarged was her amazement to find she flew into the arms of her Amintor !

This was a contrast of passions she was just then but ill prepared to bear, and therefore, as he threw his arms about her waist, she sunk quite senseless on his bosom for a short time, till his well remembered voice, with efficacy more restorative than all the art of medicine, and his lips ardently pressing hers, brought the charmed senses to their wonted seat ; and the affrighted and almost stagnated blood began to circulate again, and blush through her pale cheeks.

And is it you, she cried, my love, my husband, my dear, dear Amintor ! Can it be possible that I, who for so long a time of wretchedness have lost thee, should find thee in this moment of my fate ?

K 2

Yes,

Yes, yes, my sweet Teresa, cried Amintor, that Power, who never forsakes angelic excellence and constancy like thine, for thy dear sake preserved me for this hour ! Yes, I have heard, in thy most tender and most agonizing words spoke to that wretched monster, pointing to Arbanes, a needless confirmation of the inestimable blessing I possess in thee ; but let us, added he, at present, in remembrance of the Christian, forget if possible a while the villain, and lend our aid to save that life, which must be, if he should recover sences, his due punishment.

He then raised the pale criminal with difficulty from the floor, whose looks discovered his reason to be shook by all the terror of a guilty conscience, but not overthrown ; when he had seated him in an easy chair, Arbanes fixed his eyes upon Amintor, and in a trembling voice, scarce strong enough to be well understood, while tears gushed vehemently from his red eyes, cried out, O heaven ! thy justice, if it for a time may seem to sleep,

sleep, yet it has ever an open ear to save the innocent; but I have brought an age of guilt, of blackest guilt, to an unhoping end.

Amintor then perceiving what had before escaped his observation, that his clothes were bloody, reproached him with having added to his other crimes, the sin of a self-murder; but he solemnly declared it was accidental only, and that the dagger must, as he fell, have deeply wounded his right arm.

He then desired that a neighbouring surgeon of his acquaintance might be fetched, although he had no hope of living long; to whom, he said, he would declare the truth of the affair, lest he, in death as well as life, should prove a trouble to them.

It should have been observed before, that their servant had left the street-door open while she stept out for something that was wanting in the house, by which means Amintor entered unperceived by any of the family. She just now returned,

turned, and was dispatched immediately to fetch the gentleman Arbanes spoke of, and was in no small consternation at what she saw.

The miserable wounded man grew now so faint, that they were apprehensive he would expire before the surgeon came; but he got thither in a short space of time; and having searched the wound declared he feared it was mortal, for the main artery was hurt: he dressed and bound it up, and then desired Arbanes, if he had any thing of moment unsettled in his affairs, not to delay an hour longer, the case being very dangerous.

The other faintly answered, that he should die by his own folly, by making a false step while his unsheathed dagger was in his hand, which he was most unjustly frightening that lady with; but that he had already settled all his worldly business to his satisfaction concerning his effects; he then with difficulty took a guinea from his pocket, and making him a present of it for his trouble in attending him, told him, he should require no further

further aid, as it would all be fruitless ; then took a last leave of him, having first desired that he might be laid upon a bed, which was immediately complied with.

There, when he saw no person near him but Amintor, he cried, O Sir, can you forgive me, a wretch too vile, I know, to merit such a blessing ? Yet why do I request that favour, when, alas ! you know not half my guilt : nor would I, neither ought I, to quit the world without revealing it.

Amintor's humane heart was shocked by the repentant agony with which he uttered this, and he requested that no doubt concerning that might discompose his present situation ; for he desired him to be assured he was in that respect what he professed himself to be, a Christian ; but that he would confess his crimes, and beg for mercy of that Power he had the most offended.

Arbanes then proceeded, and informed him of the following particulars, as well

That inflamed by an inveterate resent-
ment upon his marrying Teresa, he had
contrived the horrid plot of getting him
trepanned, by a base wretch fit for his
purpose, on board a vessel, to be there
destroyed ; and that he had been enabled
to effect his scheme by finding a pocket-
book of his, dropt in the orchard near
the house of Senex ; wherein he found,
with many other papers, Courtney's let-
ter to him concerning his return to Eng-
land, and some others wrote by Amin-
tor, whereby he was empowered to coun-
terfeit his hand in that letter which was
found among the effects of Senex, with
his watch and snuff-box, which had been
taken from him on board the ship ; all
which he (Arbanes) had just before convey-
ed into the place where they were found,
in order to remove the odium that might
probably be thrown upon himself, to the
departed Senex, who, though too weak
in being deceived by a partiality for him,
was ignorant and innocent of the whole
dark affair ; for they were sent to him by
Maffanello,

Massanello, as he had ordered him, to forward his intention of gaining his invaluable wife, whose constancy he had most basely tried in vain to starve into compliance (here he wept and begged again forgiveness) by employing, continued he, proper engines to alarm the tenants, and make them refuse further payment.

But now he was obliged to rest a while, for the sharp stings of conscience, joined with the corporal pain he suffered, deprived him of the power of saying more, and he seemed fainting.

Amintor therefore called his good Teresa, who thought the moments tedious while he left her, and desired that something proper might be brought, in order to revive, if possible, a little longer his gloomy lamp of life, so very near extinguishing.

This being done, he raised his eyes again ; and, seeing Teresa standing by Amintor, requested in the most pathetic manner her forgiveness likewise : adding, that

that the injury his life had done her, he hoped his penitence and death might make some small atonement for, and that he would not add to his too weighty crimes that sin of impious despair ; since it was his opinion and his hope, that the almighty mercy was not to be judged by mortal comprehension.

And now his man, whom, I should have observed before, he had desired might be fetched to sit up with him, being come, Amintor and Teresa left him for the night, at his intreaty, to seek that rest he was no more to find on earth.

The good old lady Christiana having been informed, in the most prudent manner, briefly of all (for during what had happened she was in an upper chamber, where she often loved to sit and watch the young Teresa as she slept) became a blessed partaker in a joy, which, though she felt sincerely, was expressed like sorrow ; since, while she embraced Amintor, sobs and tears deprived her of all power of utterance to give him welcome ; which moving

moving scene drew sympathetic drops from their enraptured eyes.

But soon the radiant sun of happiness succeeded these soft showers, and the most tender, most reciprocal endearments scarce permitted either curiosity or language any liberty ; each had a thousand things they wished to say to each and hear at the same time.

But though the female tongue, if not by every one allowed to be most eloquent, is certainly declared the most loquacious ; yet Teresa and her grandmamma insisted they might hear all that had happened to Amintor, before they mentioned to him the distresses they had suffered ; which he accordingly related to them, in the same manner that has been herein before inserted ; therefore it is needless to repeat it.

And he then gave Teresa the following verses, which he told her were the melancholy consolation of a leisure hour one evening in Hamet's garden, a short time before he had his liberty.

Q

O human wisdom, boast thy power no
more !
But, humbly-conscious, heav'nly aid im-
plore :
Taught by thy suff'rings, thy defects con-
fess,
And hope, but ne'er presume, on happi-
ness.

How didst thou lead my wand'ring
thoughts astray ?
And, on black night, imagine all was
day ?
With vain, dim-sighted eyes pretend to
see,
And proudly boast, on earth felicity !

Open a vain elysium to my view ;
Yet soon, how soon, the pleasing vision flew !
Then where, O where, are now thy com-
forts flown ?
And why are all these woes so deeply
known ?

Is there not one to heal this wounded
heart ?
That bleeds incessant thro' reflective smart !
To

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 137

To bid the lost Amintor's fears have rest?
Or sooth those pangs which rend Teresa's
breast,

Yes, cruel as thou art, yet once be
kind!

Retrace each charm in her harmonious
mind.

Is she not all that Virtue's self would
paint?

Her form a mortal, but her soul a saint?

Engaging, prudent, gentle, kind, and
wise;

Constant as truth, and stranger to dis-
guise:

O say, from whence were all these virtues
given?

I hear thee say they were the gift of
of heav'n.

And can that Pow'r such attributes be-
stow,

To only prove the inheritor of woe?

Suppress that thought! No, heav'n is
ever just!

Its friendship perfect! mortals only trust.

Then

Then here, once more, I own thee as
a friend;
In deep distress thou dost some comfort
lend:
Bid'st radiant Hope relight this gloomy
brain,
And o'er reflection his soft sway main-
tain:

With manly fortitude repel despair,
Nor dare profanely doubt cœlestial care:
Shall I, weak earth, with self-approving
pride,
Presume, determine, and for heav'n de-
cide?

With prompt impatience urge offended
pow'r,
And bleſſ'd for years not suffer well one
hour?
Yes, for myself 'tis just, resign'd I'll bear:
But shall Teresa merit not my care?

Shall not a thousand fears this breast
alarm?
This tortur'd breast that feels for every
charm?

Does

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 139

Does not the wicked source of all my woe,
For love of her with jealous fury glow ?

Seduc'd by love impure design my fate ?
And love impure repell'd may turn to
hate :
Where then, alas ! may next its venge-
ance fall ?
Teresa might in vain Amintor call !

Her guarded virtue ruffian-rage might
force,
Or friendly death be found her sad re-
source :
O thought, by ev'ry ghastly fury clad,
Subside in pity, nor make reason mad !

Innumerable horrors wreck my mind,
Distort my soul, and to distraction wind
Reflection's pow'rs ! My wife, my wife,
my dear,
My lov'd Teresa, 'tis for thee I fear !

O may the best thy widow'd hours at-
tend,
May dark uncertainty thy fears be-
friend !

No

140 THE HISTORY or
No thought of me thy tender breast in-
vade,
Or choirs of angels grant thy patience
aid!

O sure some guilt of mine had doom'd
distress,
And justice broke the reins of happiness;
Drove back her car with an impetuous
blow,
And hurl'd me down this precipice of
woe.

Have I not disobey'd some great com-
mand?
Perhaps bestow'd with an illiberal hand,
Or been remiss where more than all was
due,
And kept too strongly transient bliss in
view.

Yet since Teresa must my woes par-
take,
Amintor may be blest for thy dear sake;
Thy worth thro' sufferings be ordain'd to
shine,
And thy Amintor may again be thine.

What

What tho' on barbarous land confin'd
a slave,
To nurse that soil where I disdain a grave ;
Bereft of pow'r my misery to disclose,
Or reach such ear as could relieve my
woes.

That Power which makes barbarian
now prove kind,
That darts new rays thro' this benighted
mind,
May yet at length my lovely bride re-
store ;
O may we meet to part, till death, no
more !

They were, as we may imagine, greatly affected by these verses and his story ; yet the astonishing interposition of Providence, made manifest in the time of his return, and in the justice of the wicked Massanello's punishment, took place of every consideration : and Teresa, grasping her spouse's hand most tenderly, with a grateful smile, declared, that she must not admire those verses ; looked up in a religious kind of thankful satisfaction, and

L then

142 THE HISTORY OF
then looking upon him, repeated these
very applicable lines :

“ Never let the just despair ;
“ For heav’n makes virtue its peculiar
“ care.”

It does, it does, indeed, my love, re-
plied Amintor ; and I but share in a re-
ward thy virtue has been blessed by.

But now the hour was late, and there-
fore they postponed till the next day that
which remained—her too long catalogue
of woe ; great part of which had been
discovered to Amintor by Arbanes, who
in a short time after grew quite senseless,
and did not many hours survive : how-
ever he made what amends he could for
all the torment he had given them, by
leaving her and hers, as before-men-
tioned, possessed of all the bulk of his
estate.

He had no kindred living nearly allied
to him, and those he had were happy in
their circumstances ; therefore it was
imagined, and not improbably, that their
possessing

possessing it might only prejudice some house of charity, where liberal donations often flow from vice as well as virtue.

Amintor, having heard with joy that he was then a father, saw his sweet infant as she lay asleep ; but would not have her waked that night : she was about three quarters old, and in miniature so much the picture of her mother, that the glad father beheld her with a double satisfaction.

But when he saw the altered state of life Teresa had been compelled to live in, keeping but one maid-servant to attend them all; no carriage, or an appearance such as she was used to make; an inadvertent sigh betrayed the tenderest sensation in him of her past sufferings.

When he had been informed of all, he took the earliest opportunity of sending for the good Eustatio, to reward and thank him for his faithful and friendly services to his dear spouse during his absence, which she had informed him of.

That worthy man flew with the speed of youth, and the impatience of a lover, to pay his duty to him ; and though he stood astonished, and could scarce believe his senses while he briefly heard his story, yet he soon ran to him, and intreated leave to prove they had not deceived him, by pressing to his lips his master's hand ; which having done, he cried, in happy transport, O, my dear master, it is you ! This is no dream, I find ; but I the other night had such a one of you before I had the honour of your letter, as made me wake in tears.

But now it is plain those were but tears of joy ; though I could scarce believe my eye-sight when I saw your hand.

Teresa, who was present, asked him, what was his dream concerning her Amin-
tor ? and he too joining in the request, Eustatio thus proceeded, after a minute's
rest to gather power from his surprize.

“ Methought,

“ Methought, good Sir, I was
nighted, and very much fatigued, as I
was walking on a long journey, till it
grew so dark I could scarce see my
way ; but where I was to go in truth I
cannot tell, only I well remember the
road was very rough, up hill and down,
and mostly very dirty.

“ When, on a sudden, methought the
sky was light and starry, and the moon
shined brightly ; then I came to a fine
open way, smooth as this carpet, Sir ;
where, as I walked, there was on either
side of me the finest harvest just then
fit for reaping, of various sorts of
grain ; and beyond that the fields were
covered with the fattest herds of cattle
and flocks of sheep. There I beheld
you, my dear master, as plainly as I now
see you ; only, alas ! you will, I hope,
forgive the weakness of my nature,
shedding then a tear or two, I thought
you led in your right-hand a dear de-
parted child of mine ; and, smiling gra-
ciously upon me, gave her to me.

“ With this double joy I waked ; but,
“ finding it was all a dream, could not
“ refrain from weeping bitterly, it had
“ so much possessed my fancy : and my
“ good woman, who was much frighted
“ by my seeming grief, giving my arm
“ a sudden pull, and crying out, Lord
“ bless me ! what’s the matter ? brought
“ me to myself again.”

His worthy master having heard this dream soon verified part of it ; for he smiled upon Eustatio, and in a kind and condescending manner, shaking him by the hand, bad him expect the best of fortune from it ; for that he was certain it meant more good than he could well imagine ; and that he made no doubt but he as little thought, a few days past, of ever seeing him, as he could now think of seeing his beloved Eleanora.

At that name Eustatio started ; and, looking on his master with a just sense of grateful satisfaction for his remembering so well her name, shook his grey locks, and with a sigh replied, Alas ! my dear good

good Sir, I have for many years lost all my hope of seeing her again ! but I am thankful to consider I have lived to see you thus return, and make my worthy lady happy : Eleanora was, indeed, the greatest hope and comfort of my days as well as her poor mother's ; her uncle must needs have her, and we meant it for her good ; but she is taken from us (and here he wept again, and said, Excuse me, my dear Sir, this dream, I think, has made a child of me again) and we could never hear of her.

No ! replied Amintor ; no, my faithful good Eustatio ! she will be found : the Almighty has rewards for the deserving, which ever are beyond their humble expectation. She still lives ! indeed she lives ! and by the help of that direction, giving him a paper, you this day shall find her. He then explained her story to him ; but words will not so easily explain the astonishment and rapture with which he heard it : and after falling on his bended knee to thank the first great Author of his blessings, and then his master, he, in an ecstacy of joy, intreated

148 THE HISTORY of
leave immediately to seek her ; and he
went accordingly.

She had remained on board the vessel
they arrived in, where she waited with
no small impatience the hearing from
Amintor and of her friends ; he having
told her, it was proper for him to pre-
pare her parents, in case they were still
living, for a surprize of joy so great as
seeing her would be.

The reader may imagine that their
meeting was attended by unutterable joy ;
and her father having properly accom-
modated her with several necessaries she
required to go on shore in, he returned
with her to pay their duty to Amintor
and his spouse, who received her in the
kindest manner, but would not long de-
tain them from making Eustatio's wife a
sharer in their happiness. But Teresa told
him, she should expect Eleanora at his
hands again ; for she intended, for the
future, to take her wholly under her pro-
tection, if her parents and herself ap-
proved of it ; which was shortly after,
with the greatest pleasure, accepted.

For

For soon after this Eustatio brought her up to town, expressing himself in the most grateful manner, happy to have her placed so greatly to her satisfaction and advantage; nor was his wife, he said, less happy upon that account.

For Teresa agreed to have her live with them as house-keeper, and her companion; for which she told her, for clothes and pocket-money, she should be intitled to demand of her father, whenever she thought proper, thirty pounds year: but that she meant not in the least by that to esteem her as a servant; for if another state or situation should at any time prove more agreeable to her, she still would be no less intitled to the said sum for life. Though, as she had shared her dear Amintor's most unhappy days, she said it would give her pleasure to behold her likewise a partaker of his happier fortune, who had lent her ablest hand to make his chains more bearable.

when

The quite transported Eleanora fell upon her knees before her, in the most humble signification of her grateful heart, and would have spoke it, but a tumultuous joy denied her tongue that liberty; which Amintor and his spouse perceiving, they made it their request, that she would remain silent on that subject, and proceed to give them some account of their late joyful meeting at her father's.

And she again being seated, in the following manner related the particulars :

O madam, sure there never was a sight more pityful and moving! You must know then, my tender father, being so fearful lest the great surprize of seeing me might do my poor weak mother any harm, made me get down from off the horse (he having, madam, carried me behind him) in a small close, a little distance from our house, and bid me stay a minute there, just while he put up his horse into a stable which is there; saying, he would then go by himself up to the house, and gently break it to her: he

he had just got into the stable, when from an old barn close by out pops my mother bolt upon me all at once ; for she had been to fetch some barley for her poultry ; and to be sure I, like a fool without a thought, fell on my knees to ask her blessing, or else perhaps she had known nothing of me ; but she gave such a shriek when she looked on my face before she fainted, that I was all in such a tremble I had scarcely any strength to hold her in my arms ; nor could I then speak, the fright having parched my mouth up : but in a moment out came my father ; for he had heard it, and seeing her like a dead person, was presently himself like one out of his senses ; nor could he stir from her to call for help ; and stamping cried aloud, No joy on earth I see is lasting ! O my poor dear wife ! must I then lose thee, when I have just found for thee thy dear child, thy lost Eleanora ! all the while hanging over her, and kissing her cold lips.

This brought her to herself again a little, when she, looking with a frightened look

look upon my father, said, What dost thou mean, my dear Eustatio? hast thou not yet got the better of thy strange dream? Surely we are not under any evil spirit; I hope we are not; for I think I dream when I am broad awake. Pray what is that young woman yonder?

I was then standing near her; but afraid indeed to say another word, tho' I had now the power to speak; but my father begged her to compose herself, and told her it was really me; and that you, my good Sir, addressing herself to Amin-tor, was happily returned, and kindly brought me with you.

It was some time before my mother would believe us both, and looked very wildly on us; but at last, bursting out into tears of joy, she ran and threw her arms around my neck, kissed me a hundred times, and wept upon my bosom, thanking the hand of Providence, and praying, Sir, for you; yet doubting every now-and-then if we did not deceive her; and as time and change of climate, &c, had much altered me, she looked so earnestly,

nestly, as if she would have gladly found Eleanora wrote upon my face, in order to be certain it was I.

We then led her into the house, where my father, who was now again in cheerful spirits, presently left me to inform her of every particular; but our joy I cannot, upon my word, describe; whilst he went to set the bells a ringing, Sir, on your account, and to acquaint your tenants.

Here she broke off; and Teresa, with Amintor, having thanked her for the recital, Eustatio thus replied:

Yes, Sir, indeed, the all-seeing eye of Divine Justice has let an old man live to find his wish at last granted most graciously upon his enemies; it was then my turn to hold my head up, and see theirs dejected: not, indeed, through any thing but shame (for I will do them justice) at having been weakly persuaded to act as they had done. I thought some of them would have sunk at first; but afterwards, their joy getting the better of their shame, they

they seemed heartily to rejoice indeed at hearing you were living ; nor did many of them, I assure you, go soberly to rest that night. Oh, what a comfortable thing, continued he, is a good conscience, Sir !

Amintor said, it was true, there was no comfort certainly where that was wanting, yet that he could not accuse them justly, since they but acted on a principle of prudence, as they had been alarmed by apprehensions to them so truly terrifying ; which reminds me, added he, that I shall stand in need of your assistance concerning that unhappy man's affairs, who was the guilty author of that trouble and much more, which, for his sake and human nature's, I wish could be forgotten.

He then gave him orders accordingly, needless to enumerate here ; and more than doubled to him the salary he had before enjoyed.

So ever faithfulness like his should be rewarded, though such merit or reward is seldom

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 155

seldom met with, in a world where virtue seems to be almost degenerated into traffick.

And now after the interment of Arbanes, in the private manner his will directed, they were possessed of his effects; all but some trifling legacies and his clothes left to his servants; where they found many papers belonging to their grand-father old Senex.

Teresa was one day assisting her Amin-
tor in perusing of them, and was some-
what melancholy by reflecting, as she
said, how she had been compelled to
wrong in thought his memory, concern-
ing the imagined fate of her lov'd lord,
on finding that dark letter before-men-
tioned, with his watch, &c. in his bu-
reau.

This she had just confessed, and blam-
ed her weak credulity for having been so
far deceived; when he replied, Alas!
my love, forbear on that account to make
thyself uneasy, as thou wert not to blame;
or if so, I have here just found another

156 THE HISTORY OF
paper, that will in some measure absolve
the crime of that suspicion, though on an-
other subject.

He then read the following letter di-
rected to her grand-father.

“ Dear Sir,

“ **Y**OU may judge the pain which
“ the receipt of yours has given
“ me ; I have not till now been able to
“ answer you upon that subject. I had
“ intended, as I wrote you word, once
“ more to see you and my native land,
“ in case you had been able to send me
“ news more happy ; but as you say the
“ good dear Christiana, my loved mo-
“ ther, and my poor child Teresa, my
“ hope and happiness, are both gone for
“ ever—O Sir ! forgive this last fare-
“ wel from your now most unhappy

“ C H R I S T I A N O.”

It here must be observed, that Christiana's letters to her son were always given to Senex in order to be inclosed with his ; therefore

therefore it is probable, when he thought fit, he kept her letter back.

Teresa, having heard it, in astonishment cried out, That was my dear father's name ! it must have been from him ; for our names are mentioned : yet how—what can it mean ? And yet it surely cannot neither, since we are both living !

Too clearly it appears it was from him, my dear Teresa, replied Amintor, and too plainly I perceive that I, all unsuspecting of the cruel business which the unworthy Senex had in view, have been the cause of this vile deed !—He, having meant thee for Arbanes, brooked not that thy good father should return to oppose, with kind authority surpassing his, such an unnatural choice as he made for thee. We have been told, indeed, he never loved him, and this has proved it indisputably ; besides I have heard Christiana say, that he declared, when he left England, he would in such a case see it no more.

M

O,

O, my dear Amintor, returned Teresa, what a miserable lot was mine to be allied to one so base, as I may justly call him, though my grandfather, since this black falsehood may, it is not improbable, have been the cause of my dear father's death ! yet let me not too much repine at what has been permitted, who never knew a blessing, such as thou wert many years possessed of in two dear parents, years enough to know and feel their loss.

Yes, added he, my memory still feels it, and must through life continue so to do ; and had not the soft sovereign balm of thy angelic love resumed its powerful empire in my heart, I might have shortly followed them ; for grief, my dear Teresa, will sometimes prove kind, as death is often cruel : for what is life where friendship lives no more ! But let us now suppress ideas much too painful for us both ; and by all means let us forbear to mention the letter we have found to Christiana, lest such a weight of tender sensibility, pressing too hard on her weak health

health and age, should prove of fatal consequence.

Just then that good old lady put an end to this affecting subject, by bringing in the young resemblance of Teresa, and telling them how she had whimpered at her mamma's long absence.

Ah, madam, said Amintor, can it be possible ingratitude should be the produce of our reason in maturity, when it is obvious gratitude attends us in our infancy? But, added he, I just now recollect, that I in that thought reflect upon myself, and we too often censure that in others for which we are ourselves as culpable: I should fulfil my promise to the worthy girl, my friend Servilia, and have too long indeed, by much too long, neglected it; but I will write directly, and shall be impatient till we hear what things will be the most acceptable to send her; which Teresa begged him to assure her she should be particularly curious in the choice of.

M 2 And

And now they were preparing for a journey to his seat in Hertfordshire, where they intended to continue during the summer season, and where they proposed to make a multitude partakers in the joy, which must arise from the return of one so justly loved and valued as was Amintor; but a variety of interposing business with-held them for a longer time in town, before they fixed upon a day for setting out; but now the eve of it being come, Teresa and her grand-mamma were busying themselves in seeing every thing packed up, &c. While the tender father was agreeably amused in playing with his loved and lovely infant, whom his spouse had then left in his charge, as she said, to employ him in her absence, and to give his mind and eyes a little rest from study, a servant entered the room, and told him, that a gentleman who would not give his name, being a stranger, desired to speak with him. Amintor ordered he might be conducted to him; but when he came in they appeared entirely strangers to each other.

The

The visiter apologized politely for the intrusion of his visit, and said he had accepted a commission he was unwilling to disgrace by breach of promise.

He then informed him, that his servant the good Servilia, whom his generous valour had saved from ruin, as she had informed him, requested he would wait on him with her most grateful wishes, she being likewise earnestly desirous to be acquainted of his welfare; and that he had with pleasure complied with her request, being proud of paying his respects to one he judged so worthy of every person's admiration.

Amintor, with the affability of amiable modesty, received the compliment, and yet disclaimed all merit in an act of humane justice.

The young Teresa's beauty attracting here the stranger's eyes, as she sat playing by her father's side, he catched her in his arms, and kissing her cried out, O Sir, you are happy in a lovely child,

M 3 whose

whose features promise all that's good ! I doubt not she is yours ; for there is, I think, a great resemblance of you : but there is a much stronger (you, as a father, will excuse my weakness, and then he wiped away a starting tear) of an infant I have lost, in whom my hopes all centered when death deprived me of her mother.

Teresa then entering the room in this severe emotion of his mind he was for taking leave immediately ; but Amintor, with the tenderest civility, obliged him to sit down again, and then informed his spouse concerning him, with the imagined likeness just now mentioned ; to which the gentleman made answer in words to this effect :

Yes, madam, your sweet child, indeed, just now has made a very woman of me, in having rouzed a tender sensibility, that had for some time past been buried with its much-loved object ; nor should I look on you, in order to recover manly fortitude ; for never surely was a stronger likeness between a parent and a child than I behold in you.

Teresa smiling said, she thought her most like her papa ; but that the cast of features in an infant was changeable as the chameleon ; and that she was concerned indeed to hear that the same face she looked upon with pleasure should have been to him the source of pain. Then, being kindly willing to divert the subject, she asked him many questions concerning the welfare of Servilia, to whom she said they were so much indebted, and must acknowledge gratefully.

Which he answered thus : — All she did, madam, was but retaliation ; and she, I know, disclaims the smallest thought of a return ; excepting that, indeed, which has occasioned you the trouble of my visit, of hearing you are happy. She was, in truth, a girl well worth preserving, and to her tender care of me, in a bad fit of illness, I think I owe my life.

That virtue, Sir, you providentially preserved I have rewarded ; for I have settled her in marriage to her own satisfaction,

164 THE HISTORY OF
faction, with a worthy man of ample
fortune.

But now, continued he (looking upon his watch) the hour, I fear, must warn me hence. — Alas! my watch, obliging to my wish at present, makes time with me stand still. — Then turning towards Teresa (who sat next to him) he begged of her to know the hour: she was preparing to reply, when he, attracted by a picture with which her watch was ornamented, requested leave to view it nearer; and hung intently over it for many moments, in a seeming very inquisitive, tho' silent, wonder, while his complexion varied frequently from pale to red alternately.

Here Christiana (ignorant that any visiter was with them) opening the door, called his attention off, whilst she, with the slow steps of feeble age, advanced still nearer to him, each surveying each like an astonish'd statue; but as the weak, of course, must soonest yield, in the same moment she cry'd out, My child! my Christiano! He replied, My dear, dear mother!

AMINTOR AND TERESA. 165
mother! and saved her in his arms from
sinking the next moment.

This was a scene of ecstasy, indeed, where all at heart were interested; Teresa ran to bend her willing knees, and meet the joyful eyes of a restored dear parent, crying, with exulting notes of rapturous joy, My father! ah, my dear, dear father! while he returned, My child! my dear Teresa! gracious power! can it be really so, or do I dream!

Amintor, no less delighted than amazed, was not remiss in joyous duty, whilst he likewise partook the ecstasy of all those happy kindred; and here nature seemed wound up to the most exquisite degree of pure and blessed affection, such as might furnish more than faint ideas of that permanent felicity which can be found but in a state of immortality.

The happy father Christiano, having placed his mother in a chair, in the same moment bowed his knee to heaven and her, paid from his dutious soul the first great debt of heavenly adoration, and then

then besought an earthly parent's blessing. Then, with a rapture not to be described, embraced his son and daughter, and over the smiling face of his sweet infant grand-daughter, repaid with one of joy the late dropt tear of sorrow she had cost him.

But soon as cool reflection could take place of exquisite astonishment, and joy submitted to give way to various conversation, the worthy Christiano asked his daughter, what was become of her grandfather Senex? To which Amintor answered—Gone, Sir, to hope, if possible, that mercy, and to dread that justice, he in life so much offended.

He then informed him of all before related ; adding, that till that happy hour they had judged it proper not to acquaint his mother with that letter they had found of his which had discovered so much of that unnatural parent's baseness.

And that lady was no less happy in a conscious joy of having so surmounted the grief he had occasioned, than she was
sorry

forry to find out new proofs of human guilt ; yet, with the temperature of a true Christian heart, she prayed for his forgiveness ; and cried, O my dear son, how wonderful, and how incomprehensible, are the decrees of Providence ! the vilest acts of a malignant enemy shall often in the end but heighten our felicity.

Madam, replied Christiano, I ever thought he bore me deadly hate ; nor knew I any other reason for it, than that our sentiments would often differ : but I never, indeed, imagined they differed to the degree I find they did. However, we will let his crimes rest with his ashes ; and in our living blessings banish the remembrance, if possible, of every past sorrow.

I had, it is true, determined never more to visit this loved land ; but an impression not to be accounted for, till now, compelled me to break through that rash determination ; and about the time you, my dear Sir (addressing himself to his son-in-law) called at my house, and saw Ser-
vilia,

vilia, I was disposing of my affairs accordingly ; and now may hope for the enjoyment of that happy fortune I am master of, as I have found the dearest objects to possess it with me and after I shall be no more.

He then desired to be informed of all relating to Amintor and Teresa, which we have been before acquainted with, though prematurely ; therefore shall leave this truly happy family to entertain each other, and conclude with a reflection no less just than pleasing, which their story gave existence to.

Yes, thus the virtuous mind may be opprest,
The wicked's dart will reach its gentle breast ;
Too sharp those pangs 'tis doom'd on earth to
feel,

When reason aiding patience cannot heal :
Yet where the soul, superior to distress,
Obeys that Power who knows the time to bless ;
Lets not an impious murmur e'er offend ;
But, strong in faith, implores the heav'nly
friend ;
A touch of mercy from that hand shall save,
And snatch the virtuous victim from the grave.

F I N I S.



